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THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

DISCOVER THE BRUTAL CONFLICT THAT SHAPED A NATION



**Digital
Edition**



FOURTH
EDITION

A NATION DIVIDED

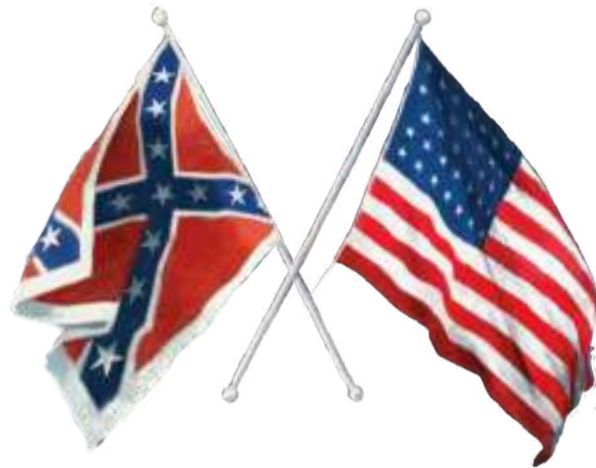
Explore the political and cultural
clashes that tore the country in two

DEFINING BATTLES

From Bull Run to Appomattox, learn
how key victories shaped the war

IMPACT & LEGACY

Discover how the war was won, and
the efforts to reunite the country



Welcome

On 12 April 1861, the first shots of the American Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter in what would become the bloodiest war in American history. In just four years, more than 600,000 men were killed as a fractured young nation fought to decide its future.

In this book, we explore the origins of the conflict, including the divisive issue of slavery, the North's attempts to preserve the Union and South's demands for autonomy. In-depth features of major battles examine the true horrors of the war, while battle maps reveal the tactics that decided the likes of Antietam and Gettysburg. Discover the key leaders and military masterminds whose decisions shaped the conflict, and the sacrifices of the soldiers on both sides. While the war may have ended in 1865, the United States remained bitterly divided for many years. We explore the Reconstruction era, attempts to heal the country's wounds, and the impact the war has had on American history.

「 FUTURE 」

EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

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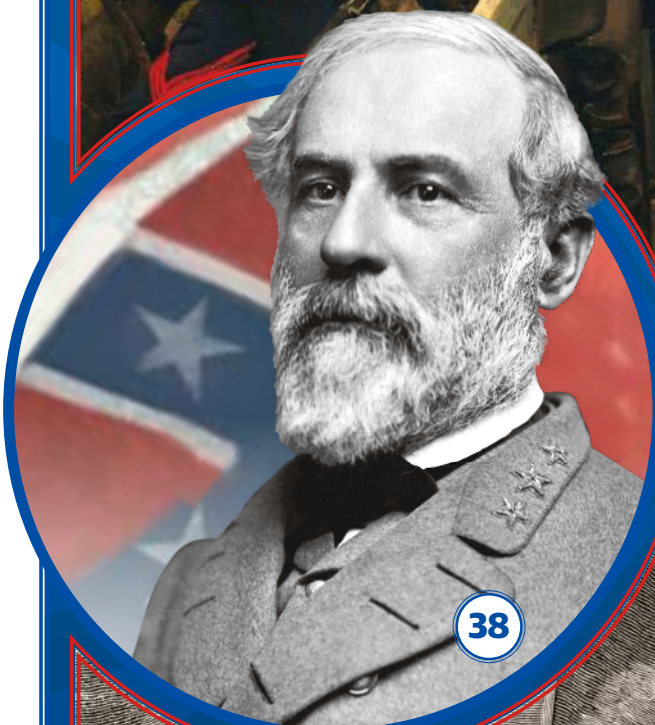
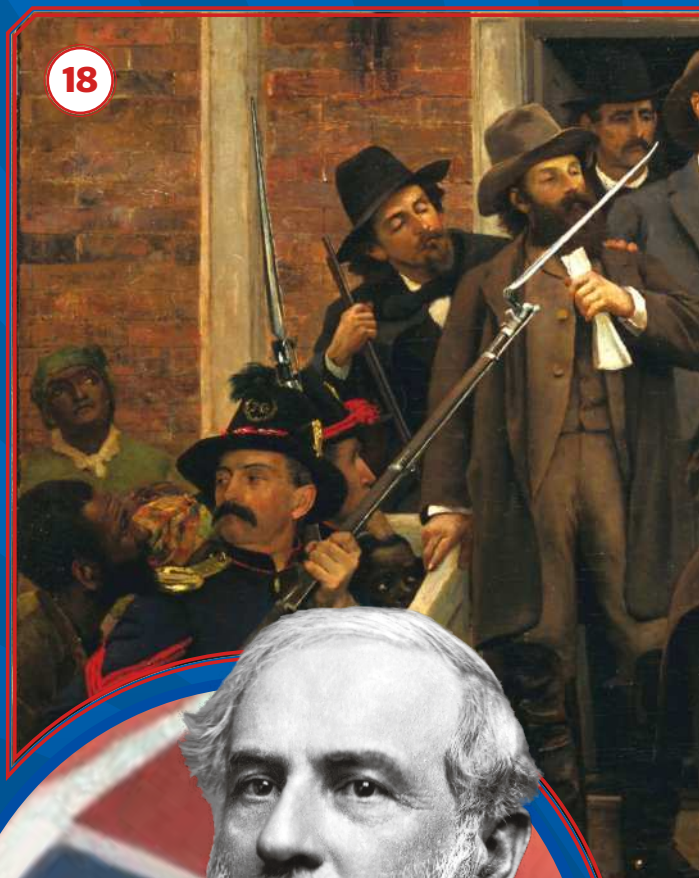
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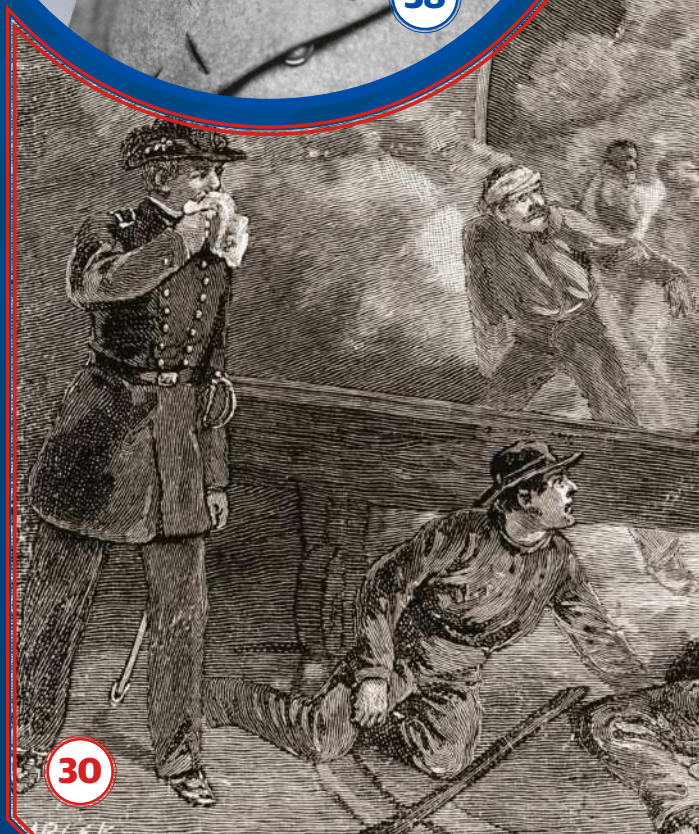
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An Introduction to The American Civil War

The battle for the heart and soul of the nation was
fought across four years of bloodshed

Words by **Tim Williamson**





The American Civil War is considered the most important conflict in US history. After its outbreak in 1861, disagreements over the issue of slavery, the balance of power between the central government and individual states, and the future path of the country, would not be resolved by lawyers and politicians, but by soldiers. For four years thousands of fellow countrymen and women would be locked in a tragic struggle, which would see the nation changed forever.

SLAVERY AND SECESSION

After defeating Great Britain in the War of Independence (1775-83) the USA soon began to grow in size and its population swelled, as the new country attracted immigrants from around the world to find their fortunes. The former American Colonies had now become the

United States, and soon the country expanded its borders in the south and west. In 1803 the American government purchased French Louisiana for \$15 million (approximately equivalent to \$300 million today). The new land totalled 827,000 square miles west of the Mississippi River. More territory was acquired after the Mexican-American War (1846-48), which resulted in Texas joining the Union.

This rapid expansion made the USA a rich and successful country, but Americans remained divided over the issue of slavery. While owning slaves was not illegal according to the US Constitution, most states in the North of the country outlawed the practice. In the South, it was not only legal to own slaves, they were an essential part of the region's wealth. Farms and plantations, particularly cotton plantations, were kept running by thousands of black slaves, making the white land owners rich.

In 1860 the Presidential election was won by Abraham Lincoln, who was popular in the North of the country, and against slavery, causing many in the South to fear he would make the practice illegal. This was one of the major factors that caused the first state to leave the United States of America, known as secession. On 20 December 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union, and was soon followed by several other states in the South, which formed the Confederate States of America. It was only a matter of time before the two rival Americas clashed on the battlefield.

FIRST SHOTS OF WAR

The war of words between the newly formed Confederacy and the Union broke out into violence in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1861. Fort Sumter, in the city harbour, was attacked by Confederate supporters and eventually the Union garrison was forced to surrender. In May,

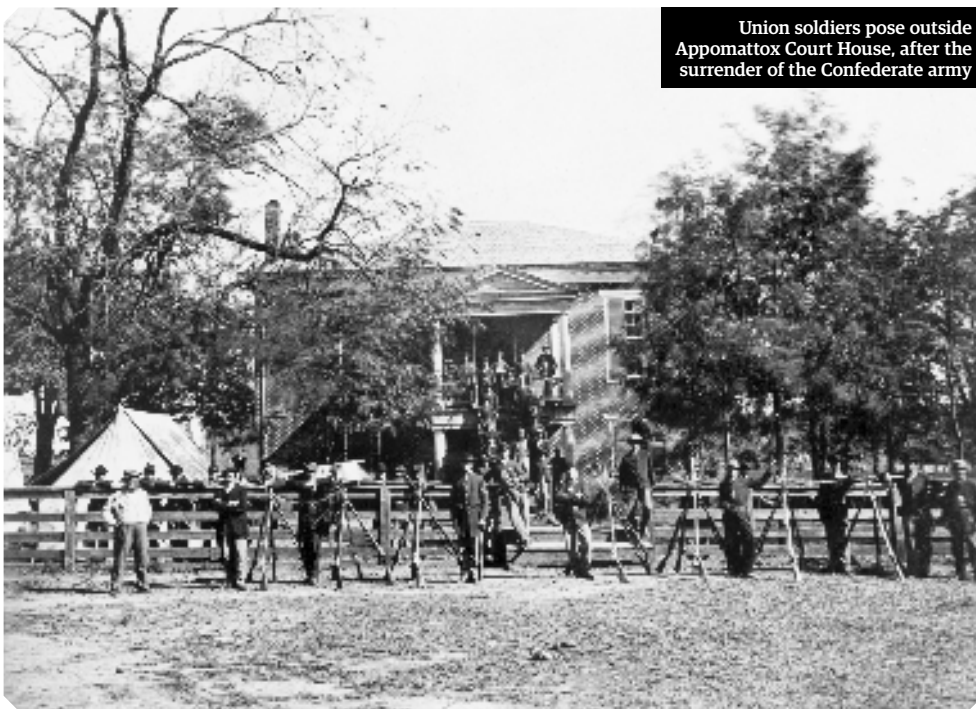


Scene from the Battle of Gettysburg, considered to be a major turning point in the Civil War

Image source: Alamy



The American Civil War



Union soldiers pose outside Appomattox Court House, after the surrender of the Confederate army

President Lincoln asked for volunteer soldiers to defend the Union from this rebellion, and soon new regiments were marching across to join the fight. Meanwhile, the Confederate States had elected their own president, Jefferson Davis, who called for 400,000 volunteers from the Southern states to join the Confederate army.

With the battle lines drawn, the first clashes of the war did not prove decisive enough for a quick end to the war. The First Battle of Bull Run, or Manassas, was watched from a small distance by curious civilian spectators, who were soon horrified to witness the Union army run from the field. Several other clashes broke out along the new frontlines that formed across once friendly neighbouring states. Northern Virginia, bordering with Maryland and Washington DC was a focus of constant military campaigns.

At sea, the superior Union Navy formed a blockade of major ports in the South, which stopped vital goods travelling in and out of the South. This had a huge impact on the Confederacy's ability to wage war because overseas trade was important for funding, arming and supplying its armies. It also prevented the Confederacy from contacting potential Allies across the Atlantic. In November 1861, Southern diplomats James Mason and John Slidell were arrested while trying to travel to Europe. They had intended to gain foreign support for the Confederacy in the war.

1862 CAMPAIGNS

In the Spring of 1862, military campaigns began across the country. In April, New Orleans was captured by Union troops, cutting off another critical port for the Confederacy. In north-west Virginia, Confederate general Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson led a successful campaign harassing much larger Union

armies, while Union general George B McClellan led a huge invasion of Virginia, marching over 120,000 men through the south-east of the state. The Peninsula Campaign, as it was later called, aimed to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond, but McClellan's army was stopped just short of the city, at the Battle of Seven Pines, or Fair Oaks.

After the Union's failed campaign, it was the turn of the Confederacy to strike. In September 1862, General Robert E Lee, commanding the Army of Northern Virginia, launched an invasion of Maryland. The campaign ended on 17 September 1862, in a battle along Antietam Creek near the town of Sharpsburg. With over 22,700 casualties The Battle of Antietam remains the single bloodiest day in American history. Although neither side could claim total victory, President Lincoln used it as an opportunity to release his Emancipation Proclamation. This historic document declared that every slave at that time held in the Confederate States was free. The Proclamation changed the Union's focus in the war, and was a critical step towards abolishing slavery.

1863: TURNING POINT OF THE WAR

The Emancipation Proclamation also meant an increase in enlisted African-Americans into Union regiments. Thanks to the vast railroad network in the North, these troops could also quickly reach the frontline. Fresh units were badly needed as the conflict rolled into 1863. On the Virginian frontline, neither side had yet gained the upper hand, and the Union's main force, the Army of the Potomac, was still recovering from a catastrophic assault on Confederate defences, during the winter. Another offensive, known as the Battle of Chancellorsville, almost succeeded in outmanoeuvring Robert E Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, but was also eventually defeated.

Again, Lee decided to respond by launching an invasion of the North. His intention was to disrupt Union communications and supply lines in Virginia. The Confederate leadership was also aware of President Lincoln's unpopularity in

Over 620,000 Americans were killed in the conflict, making it the bloodiest war in US history

Timeline of the conflict

For four terrible years the war raged across the country

20 December 1860

Secession

South Carolina votes to leave the Union, followed by Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, Mississippi, Florida and Georgia, forming the Confederate States of America.



18 February 1861

The other president

Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as the provisional President of the Confederate States of America in Montgomery, Alabama (pictured left).

12 April 1861

Fort Sumter

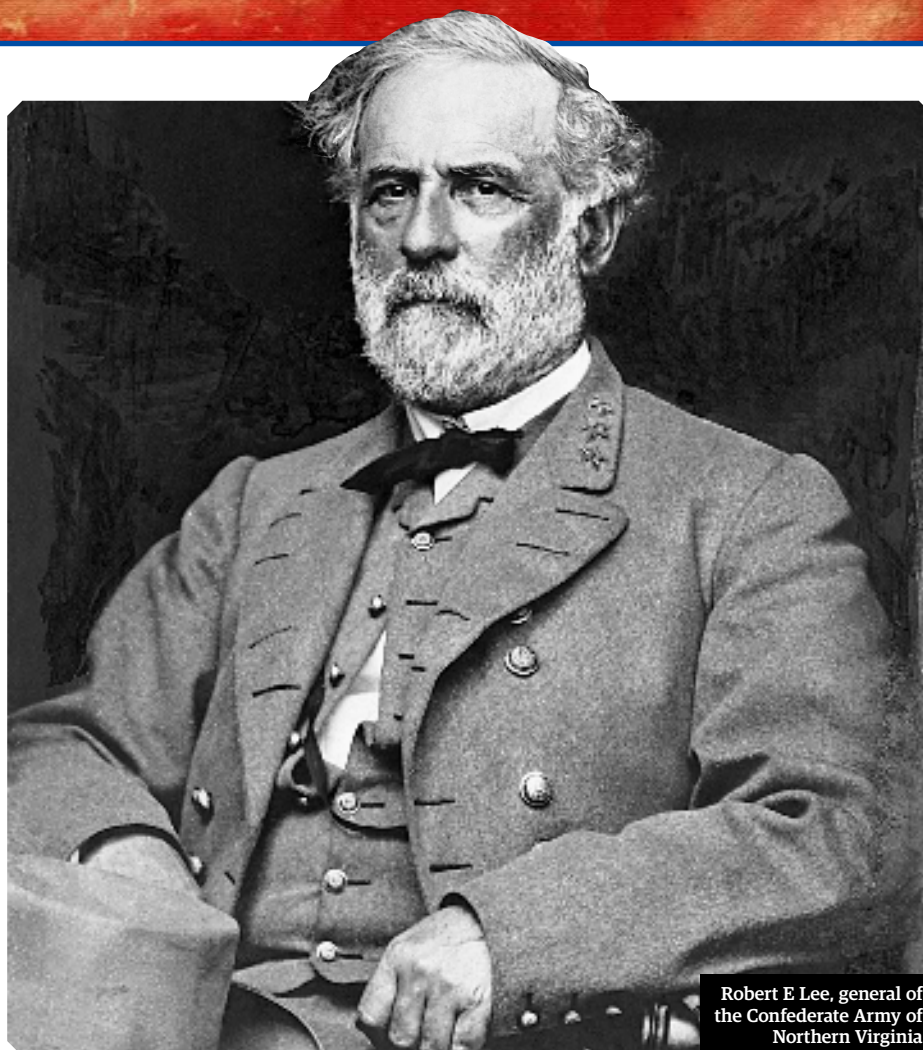
Local militia attack and capture Fort Sumter in Charleston harbour, South Carolina (depicted right). This battle is considered to mark the start of the Civil War.

3 May 1861

Volunteers

President Lincoln appeals for an additional 42,000 volunteers to join the Union Army for a period of 3 years.





Robert E Lee, general of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia

many parts of the North. They believed that a defeat at the hands of the Army of Northern Virginia, the main Confederate force, deep in Union territory, could topple the Union government, or force them to make peace.

In June 1863 Lee's army departed its entrenched position in Virginia, marching west and then north into western Virginia. Lee was soon pursued by the Army of the Potomac, now commanded by Joseph Hooker, who had

orders to destroy the Southern army, but also to protect the capital, Washington DC. The two armies met on 3 July near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in a three-day battle that was among the bloodiest of the war. After the Union victory, Lee was forced to retreat back to Virginia. At the dedication of a cemetery at the site of the battle, four months later, President Lincoln made his historic speech, the Gettysburg Address.



"With over 22,700 casualties the Battle of Antietam remains the single bloodiest day in American history"

CIVIL WAR GLOSSARY

ABOLITIONIST

The term given to people seeking to outlaw or make illegal a practice or institution. The Abolitionist movement in the 19th century wanted to ban slavery across the USA.

BORDER STATES

States that remained within the Union, but were closely contested, still kept slavery legal and shared a southern border with the Confederate States.

CONFEDERACY / CONFEDERATE

Referring to the Confederate States of America, which included: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

EMANCIPATION

Freedom from slavery.

FEDERAL

Relating to central government, (distinct from state government).

FREE STATES

States where slavery was illegal.

NORTH / NORTHERNERS

Referring to the states and people remaining in the Union during the Civil War, specifically on the east coast of the country (see *Union*)

SECESSION / SECEDE

Withdrawing or leaving a partnership or union made up of several members.

SLAVE STATES

States that permitted slavery in their borders.

UNION

Referring to the states that did not secede during the Civil War. These were: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia (from 1863) and Wisconsin.

Images source: Getty Images, Wiki

21 July 1861

First Battle of Bull Run

One of the first major battles of the war ends in Confederate victory near Manassas and Bull Run Creek, Virginia.

6 August 1861

Confiscation Act

The Confiscation Act is passed, allowing Union soldiers to take any property belonging to Confederate owners, including slaves.



24 April 1862

The Capture of New Orleans

New Orleans, Louisiana is captured by a Union invasion fleet (depicted left). The city controls vital access to the Mississippi River.

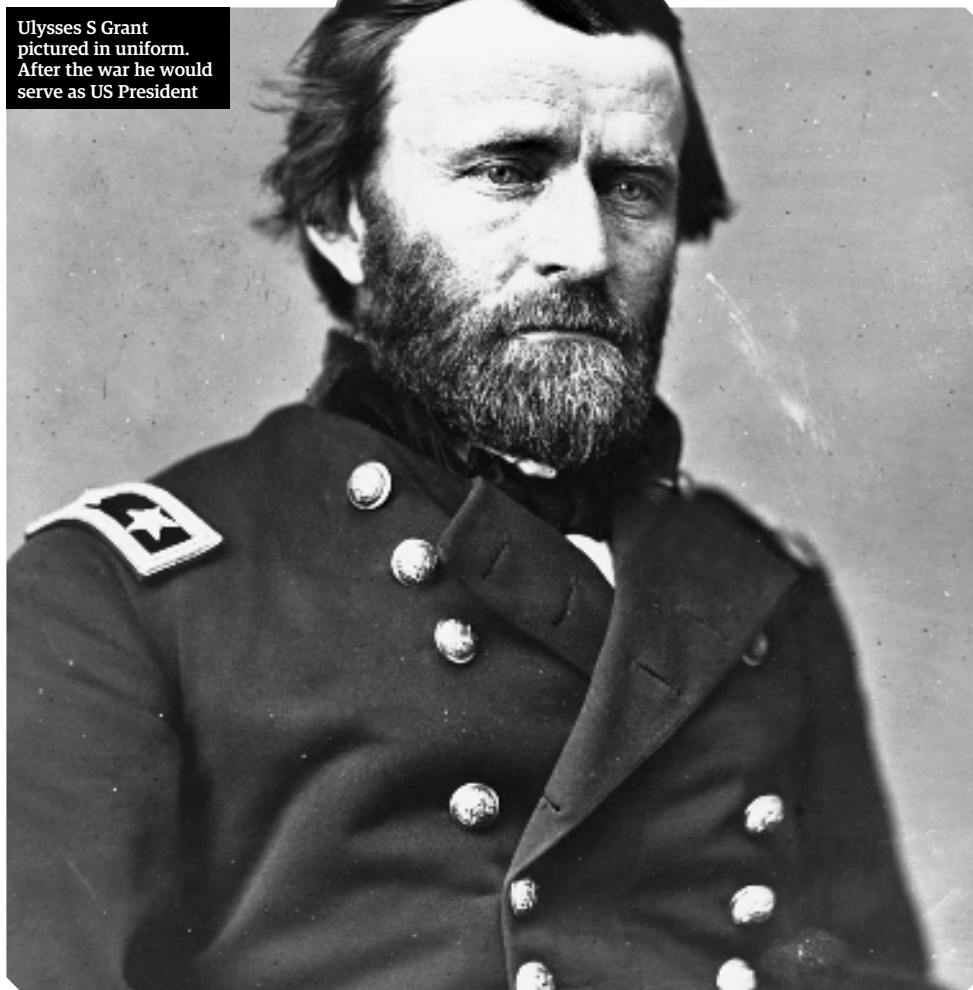
16-18 September 1862

The Battle of Antietam

The Battle of Antietam ends inconclusively, with over 22,000 casualties. The result encourages President Lincoln to deliver the Emancipation Proclamation.



Ulysses S Grant pictured in uniform. After the war he would serve as US President



lasted for four days and was only brought to an end by the army. Thousands of dollars' worth of damage was done to the city, and at least 119 people were killed.

RISE OF GRANT AND SHERMAN'S MARCH

Out west, the Union had been gradually gaining control over the major rivers that were important for supply and trade. In July 1863, General Ulysses S Grant captured the city of Vicksburg, which was the last major Confederate fortification on the important Mississippi River. This victory effectively cut several key Confederate States from the east, with the Union navy and army able to prevent supplies, resources and troops from crossing the river.

★★★

"Sherman wanted to destroy the Confederacy's ability to wage war"

In reward for his great victory, Grant was made general-in-chief of the Union armies, and in the Spring of 1864 he began co-ordinating several large offensives. While he personally joined the Army of the Potomac, commanded by George Meade, he sent William T Sherman to capture Atlanta, Georgia. Grant and Meade marched into Virginia with some 120,000 men, seeking to destroy Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Months of marching and gruelling pitched battles were to follow, including clashes at Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Totopotomoy Creek, Cold Harbor, and Trevilian Station.

Known as the Overland Campaign, Grant's aggressive offensive resulted in around 88,000 total casualties, most of which were from Union forces. However, these were losses that the Union could cope with, and the Confederates could not. Gradually Lee's strength was being drained by the persistent Grant. In the winter of 1864, the Union army surrounded Petersburg, Virginia, which was a strategically important city close to the Confederate capital Richmond.

The defeat of the Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg was another huge blow for the Confederate States, which by this time had been hugely damaged from years of war. By 1863 the continuing Union blockade of Southern ports had weakened the Confederate economy. The trade in cotton and other goods overseas had been almost entirely halted, starving the South of the vital money it needed for the war. There were even food shortages in many major cities, which

struggled to feed thousands of troops over the years of campaigning. In the Spring of 1863 riots broke out in several Southern cities, as hungry citizens broke into properties in search of food.

However, many Union cities also experienced unrest. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was not popular with everyone in the North, especially not within states that permitted slavery but had remained in the Union, known as the border states. The Draft Act of 1863 was also hugely unpopular. This meant that all men aged between 20 and 45 could be forced to join the Union army. However, those wealthy enough could pay money to avoid serving, which angered many of the poorer in society. In New York City, opposition to the Draft Act turned into violent rioting, which

Timeline of the conflict

For four terrible years the war raged across the country



11-15 December 1862

The Battle of Fredericksburg

The Union Army of the Potomac is defeated at the Battle of Fredericksburg, which ends with over 18,000 total casualties.

30 April - 6 May 1863

The Battle of Chancellorsville

The Battle of Chancellorsville ends in Confederate victory, despite the death of General 'Stonewall' Jackson.



1-3 July 1863

The Battle of Gettysburg

Robert E Lee's invasion of the North is defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg. The Confederate army retreats but is not pursued closely by the Union force.

12 April 1864

The Fort Pillow Massacre

Approximately 300 black Union soldiers captured by Confederate troops are massacred at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

After failing to storm the city, Grant ordered his army to construct robust trenches, moving gradually to surround Petersburg and Lee's army within it. The vast network of trenches constructed by both Confederate and Union forces in this campaign closely resemble those later seen in the First World War, half a century later. The Union army also dug tunnels beneath the enemy defences - another tactic later adopted in trench warfare.

While Grant and his army remained entrenched around Petersburg, William T Sherman had captured Atlanta, and prepared to make his next move. After the brutal Overland Campaign, the Union high command could sense the end of Confederate resistance was in sight. In November 1864, Sherman led 62,000 men on his infamous 'March to the Sea', a scorched earth campaign, in which his forces raided supply

This famous photograph shows a dead Confederate soldier after the Battle of Gettysburg



stores, burned farms, ripped up railroads and telegraph lines, and generally caused chaos across the state. As well as aiming to demoralise and terrify the South, Sherman wanted to destroy the Confederacy's ability to wage war. His march of destruction came to an end when he reached the city of Savannah, on the Atlantic coast, in December. Next, he turned his army towards South Carolina, back where the war began.

SURRENDER AT APPOMATTOX

At the beginning of 1865 the conflict was entering its final months. Lee's forces at Petersburg were starving and weakened by the long siege. After failing to break the Union lines with his own attack in late March, General Lee was forced to retreat from Petersburg after a huge offensive by Grant. With the city abandoned, the Confederate forces were in full retreat and the capital of Richmond was abandoned to the Northerners.

By this time, the Confederates knew that defeat was inevitable. Lee and his army halted at the village of Appomattox. Outnumbered three-to-one, the general was forced to accept the inevitable and met with Grant on 9 April at the courthouse. The surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia was signed here, and was followed by a number of other Confederate armies surrendering across the country. The American Civil War had ended.

The North's victory was complete, the Confederate States had been defeated and the Union was restored. However, what should have been a time for rejoicing soon turned to tragedy. Just days after the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, President Lincoln was shot and killed by Confederate sympathisers. The man who had saved the Union was dead, but before the end of the year his legacy was complete. The Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, outlawing slavery, was made official on 6 December 1865.

Over a third of Union soldiers were recent immigrants. The average age of a Union soldier was 25.8 years



Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America

Images source: Getty Images, Wiki

15 Nov - 21 Dec 1864

March to the Sea

Union general William T Sherman begins his 'March to the Sea' through Georgia, destroying railroads and enemy resources and capturing the city of Savannah.

9 April 1865

General Lee's surrender

After the Battle of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, Robert E Lee surrenders on behalf of the The Army of Northern Virginia.

14 April 1865

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln

President Lincoln is shot and killed by John Wilkes Booth at the Ford's Theatre, Washington DC.

10 May 1865

Davis' capture

Confederate President Jefferson Davis is captured by Union troops at Irwinville, Georgia and imprisoned at Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia (depicted right).





An Unstable Union

Political differences, rapid social change and expansion to the west steered America towards the 19th century's bloodiest war

Words by **Will Lawrence**



In the early years of the 19th century, the United States was not seen as hugely important by the powerful nations of Europe – at this time its population was a similar size to Ireland's. However, by 1860 it had grown to become the third most populous nation in the Western world (behind Russia and France) with almost 32 million inhabitants – 4 million of whom were slaves.

With this population boom came a shifting economy, a big increase in industry and

manufacturing, boosted by the development of vast coal reserves and the nation's sprawling forests. The great rivers of New England, Pennsylvania and New York were used to turn water wheels, while improvements in transportation – laying all-weather roads, building canal networks and, crucially, the development of the railroad – brought the vast country closer together.

During this period, America's big cities became even bigger. Chicago, for example, saw its population rise from 5,000 in 1840 to 110,000 by

1860. An ever-growing number of workers moved from the fields to the cities, giving up farming for the promise of a better life.

During the 19th century, the industries in the north of the USA grew much faster than those in the South. By 1850, the number of farmworkers in the north had fallen below 40 per cent of the population, while in the South this remained above 80 per cent. If a line were drawn between St Louis in Missouri, Louisville in Kentucky and Baltimore in Maryland, every industrial centre would have still been found to the North.

Southern cities were also small compared to those in the North. New Orleans was four times larger than any other southern city, and Montgomery, Alabama, the first Confederate capital, had only 36,000 people at a time when St Louis and Cincinnati each had more than 160,000. At the start of the Civil War, the combined population of Richmond and Petersburg was less than 60,000, and there were no large towns at all between the lower Mississippi and the Atlantic seaboard.

In the face of this imbalance, the South celebrated its dependence on farmland, believing this approach to be closer to the ideals of the Founding Fathers than the northern cities. Southern life in many ways resembled the 18th century, with the vast majority living as farmers, growing corn and raising pigs even as Northerners were already flooding to the cities.

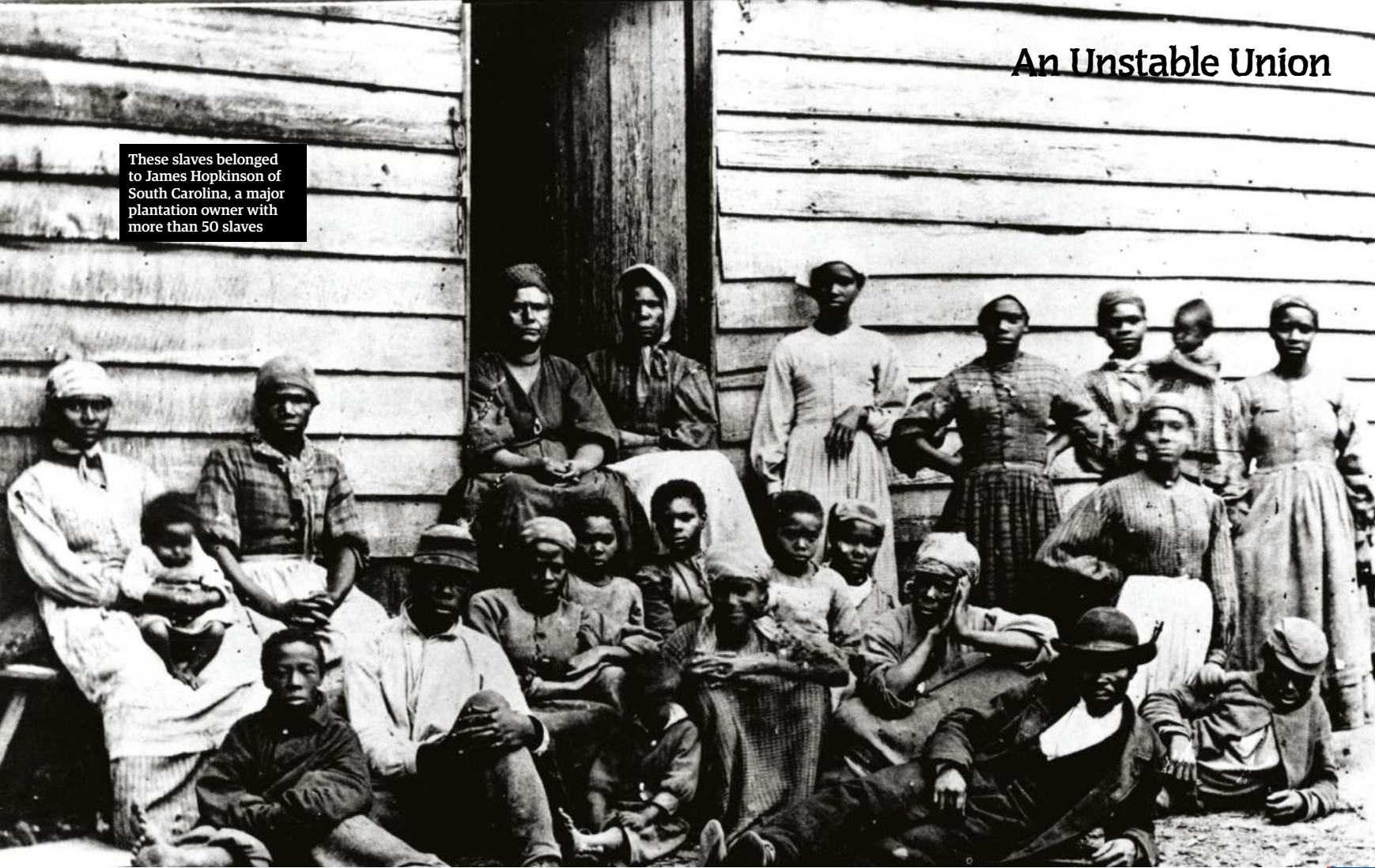
In education, the Northern states were also much more successful than the South. In New England, for example, 95 per cent of the population could read and write, compared to an average of just 20 per cent in the South. Three-quarters of New England's children attended schools – in the South it was no more than a third.

The most striking difference between North and South in the first half of the 19th century



The cotton gin revolutionised the industry in the rich soils of the Southern states

These slaves belonged to James Hopkinson of South Carolina, a major plantation owner with more than 50 slaves



★★★ “During the 19th century, the industries in the north of the USA grew much faster than those in the South”

was, of course, slavery, which affected all aspects of society in the South. Slave owners dominated Southern politics, and while many members of the lower classes resented plantation owners, this was because many aspired to become successful farm owners themselves. To climb the social ladder in the South required slaves and it was through the slave-operated cotton plantations that many Southerners earned great fortunes.

This success was also thanks to the invention of the cotton gin in 1793. This invention radically reduced the manpower required to separate cotton fibres from their seeds.

It revolutionised the industry, which had thrived in the richer soils of the Southern states. Soaring demand from Europe led to massive growth. In 1790, American cotton production stood at 3,000 bales per year.

By 1810 it had leapt to 178,000; by 1830 it stood at 732,000 and by 1860 it had grown to 4.5 million bales.

In certain areas – such as South Carolina and Alabama – black slaves outnumbered white people, and any talk of freeing the slaves filled the white population with dread. Surely, they thought,

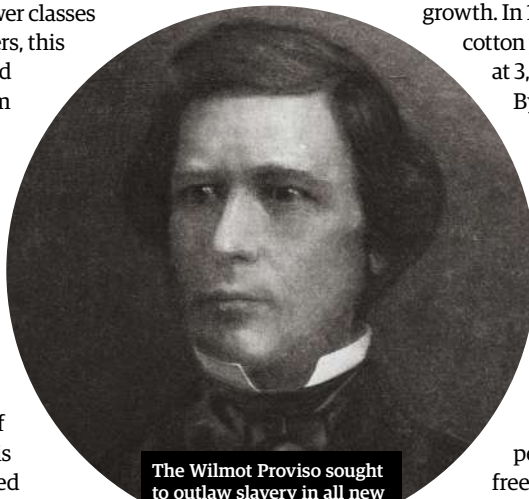
freedom for the slaves would release their savage energies. Southern fears became reality when in 1822, the freed slave Denmark Vesey, from Charleston, South Carolina, was believed to be planning an uprising. Rumour spread that this could involve up to 9,000 slaves. His ‘conspiracy’ was betrayed and 130 blacks were arrested, of whom 35 (including Vesey) were hanged.

Nine years later, in 1831, Nat Turner led another rebellion, murdering almost 100 whites. Although these incidents were, in the words of one historian, ‘trifling affairs,’ they were well remembered in the South. It was in the interest of all Southerners to keep the black population shackled – so it was claimed.

In 1832, the government of South Carolina looked for ways to grant its own law makers the power to stop, or nullify, laws passed by Congress, if it deemed them harmful to the interests of the state. This action sparked the Nullification Crisis.

The crisis was averted, but it set the stage for a fight between Unionism and the rights of individual states. In many ways it became a rehearsal for the secession crisis of 1860–61. Charleston, one of South Carolina’s major cities, would later be the location where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

It is important to remember that separatism, the idea of states splitting from the Union, was a big topic of discussion during the first half of the 19th century. The idea that states



The Wilmot Proviso sought to outlaw slavery in all new territories seeking entrance to the Union



The American Civil War

could separate, or secede from the Union was a permanent concern for the central government in Washington DC. In fact, individual state governments already held a lot of power, keeping law and order and raising their own taxes directly "The sinews of federal power were feeble," noted one historian.

The Missouri Compromise of 1820 was another occasion when the idea of secession had been raised. When the federal government debated the new state's entrance to the Union, the South wanted it to be admitted as a slave state, and the North only agreed if Maine would be accepted as a free state, to maintain the balance in Congress between slave and free states. Neither would have a majority vote in Congress, and the balance would remain. In 1847 there were 14 free and 14 slave states.

However, according to one leading historian the Missouri Compromise had an overall negative impact, claiming it showed "Southern unity of action in the halls of Congress." This

Southern slave owners fought hard for the return of runaway slaves, offering significant financial rewards



American victory in the Mexican War of 1846-1847 helped edge the US towards civil war

unity tightened during the 1840s, especially when Massachusetts and eight other states passed personal liberty laws under which state officials were forbidden to assist in the capture of fugitive slaves.

During the 1850s, the population boomed as more and more immigrants crossed the Atlantic to find their own fortunes as the country expanded west. It was during this decade that slavery was once again fiercely debated by American politicians. The South argued for slavery to become legal in the

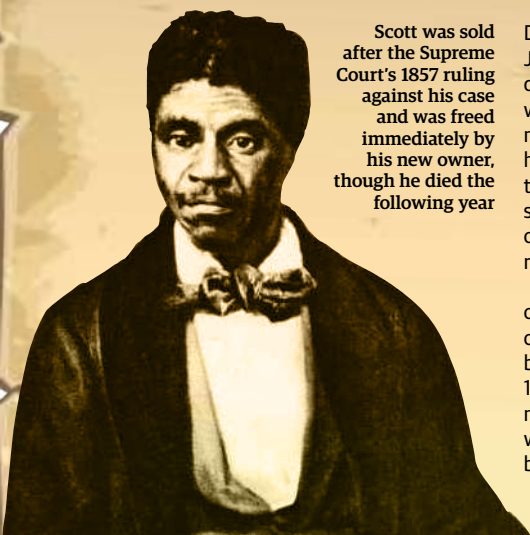
Fewer than 50,000 of the South's population of 8 million were planters - property holders who owned over 20 slaves

new territories - not only so slaveholders could profit from selling to the settlers, but also to maintain the political balance in the Senate between pro- and anti-slave states.

The vast Southwest - which today is modern-day California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico - soon saw a trickle of settlement. Technically, this area was Mexican territory. Trouble broke out in

1836 when the American population of Texas rebelled against Mexico. This eventually led to the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848, from which the US emerged victorious.

THE DRED SCOTT CASE The Supreme Court's ruling in this landmark case nudged the crisis in America towards its violent conclusion



Scott was sold after the Supreme Court's 1857 ruling against his case and was freed immediately by his new owner, though he died the following year

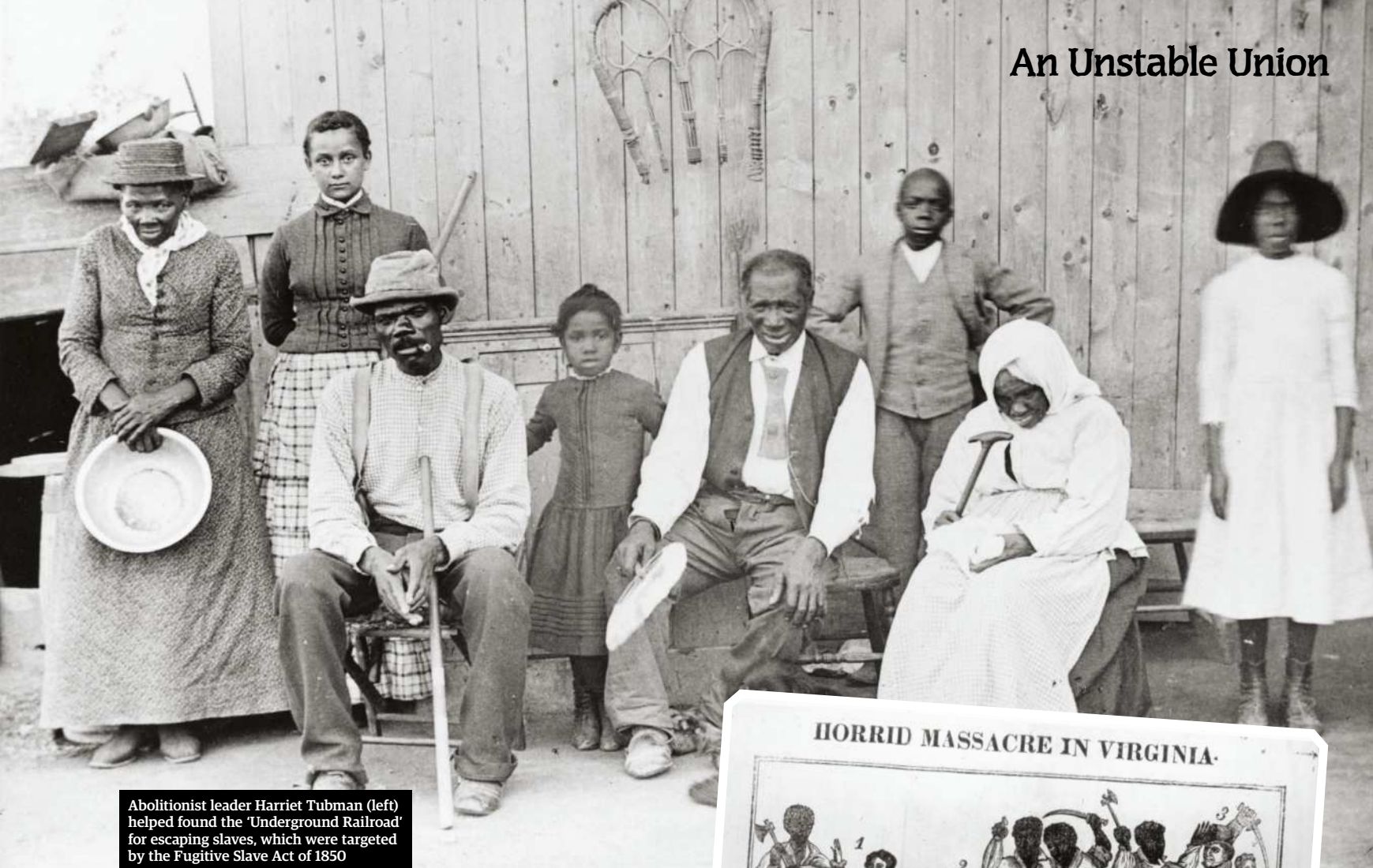
Dred Scott, a slave owned by army surgeon John Emerson, launched a legal case that dragged on for 11 years and escalated into what one commentator describes as "The most notorious [court case] in American constitutional history." In 1846 Scott sued for his freedom on the grounds that his master had removed him for several years to military bases in the free state of Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory before returning him to the slave state of Missouri.

The case was lost and won on several occasions (leading to claims that it is the most overturned case in America's legal history) before it landed with the Supreme Court in 1856. In March 1857 it was announced by the majority decision of six judges (five of whom were Southerners) that Scott had no case because, as a 'negro' he was not a citizen of the

United States and therefore he had no rights or argument in a federal court.

The abolitionists, who had secretly sponsored Scott's case, were outraged. However, the case had further repercussions, as the presiding judge went on to declare that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional as Congress had no rights to exclude slaves from any state as they were private property. Slavery was now a political hot potato and there was talk of secession from the Union among Northerners as well as Southerners. New England witnessed secessionist meetings across the state.

The Dred Scott case had placed the Supreme Court, the common guarantor of both North and South in the middle of sectional conflict. The bonds of Union strained further under the weight of the court's decision.



Abolitionist leader Harriet Tubman (left) helped found the 'Underground Railroad' for escaping slaves, which were targeted by the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

An immediate result of America's victory was the opportunity for settlers to create new states from the conquered territory. Even before the end of the war, the anti-slavery congressman David Wilmot had introduced a measure to outlaw slavery in all the new territory. Southern politicians stopped Wilmot's law in the Senate,



"The most harmful part of the Compromise of 1850 was the Fugitive Slave Act"

but the issue emerged once again in 1850 when California petitioned to join the Union.

The Gold Rush in the West had caused an increase in California's population. Many of these people were from the North of the US, and opposed to slavery. Eventually, California was admitted as a free state, but New Mexico and Utah were permitted to choose. Although both voted for slavery, it never took hold in these states. This

became known as the Compromise of 1850, and it had a lasting and negative impact on the balance of power and stability in the country.

The most harmful part of the Compromise of 1850 was the Fugitive Slave Act. Backed by the South, this act granted slave owners government support to travel into states in order to catch runaway slaves. The abolitionists - those who were against slavery - in the North were furious, and many anti-slavery proponents strongly opposed the Fugitive Slave Act. This response was met with fury by many Southerners who, from their point of view, were simply trying to reclaim their legal property. This argument between the North and South was still further escalated in 1852 when the anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, was published.

Eventually the debate between the North and South came to a showdown, when in 1854 Southern politicians openly challenged the Northern states over the issue of slavery. They demanded that the Missouri Compromise be repealed. When Kansas and Nebraska were

HORRID MASSACRE IN VIRGINIA.



After the violent actions during Nat Turner's 1831 uprising, many Southerners felt that slaves could not be freed

admitted into the Union, the former accepted slavery, while the latter refused.

Differences between the North and South continued to grow and in the words of a leading writer on the Civil War: "By 1860 most Southerners agreed that they had, in an incredibly short period of time, developed a distinct civilisation, and were culturally different from other Americans." This was reinforced by the actions of the radical abolitionist John Brown in his attack on Harper's Ferry, and the judgement on the Dred Scott case.

As 1860 loomed, and presidential nominations were put forward, many in the South were in favour of separating from the North. It would not take much to ignite the fires of rebellion and war.





A Land of Hope Built on Suffering

For millions of people, the American Dream had a horrendous reality: the living nightmare of slavery

Words by **Edoardo Albert**



Slavery was a huge part of the history of the USA. Throughout history, slaves had been bought and sold in almost every civilisation around the world. What is unusual about slavery in America, however, was that it caused a huge moral and political debate across the country, triggering the bloodiest war in its history. In the end, America baptised itself in blood over the idea that no man might own another.

Although slavery existed throughout the colonies, by the 18th century there was a big difference in how slaves were employed. Those in the North usually worked as servants, craftsmen and labourers in cities. Those in the South largely worked the land, on crops such as tobacco and rice. For such difficult and back-breaking work, Southern plantation owners spent a lot of money buying slaves. However, arguments were already being made against slavery throughout the British Empire and the North American colonies. Individual colonies, and later states, would outlaw slavery entirely during the United

States' early years after gaining independence. However, the slave trade across the Atlantic would not officially be stopped until the passing of a government act in 1807.

During the American War of Independence, both British Loyalists and American Patriots promised freedom to slaves who fought on their side. But despite the Revolutionary army numbering between 20-25 per cent black soldiers, the new Constitution of the United States required free states to return escaped slaves to slave states. Already, the divide between the Northern 'free' and the Southern 'slave' states was deepening. By 1804, every Northern state had outlawed slavery, while the economy of the Southern states still depended on it.

Slaves in the South were not allowed to learn to read and write. In order to control a population that numbered a third of the state population, slave owners created a hierarchy among the slaves. Slaves working inside houses were given special privilege and treated better than those working in the fields. While slaves did marry, these marriages had no legal basis and slave

The Last Moments of John Brown
by Thomas Hovenden depicts
Brown being led to his execution



NAT TURNER'S REBELLION

A slave from Virginia, Nat Turner learned to read and write when he was very young. He often read the Bible, and saw visions and heard messages that convinced him God had given him a great mission. These visions gave him the belief that, in his words, "I should arise and prepare myself, and slay my enemies with their own weapons."

In 1831 Nat Turner led a great slave rebellion against the white slave owners. He and a small group made their plans in the woods of Southampton County. They would not launch a gentle revolt, but a violent one in response to decades of cruel treatment.

The first to die were Turner's owners. In the early hours of 22 August, the seven men made their way to the Travis farm. Turner had become the property of Joseph Travis when the widow of his previous owner had married him. Turner entered the house and let the other rebels in, before they walked silently into the room where Travis lay sleeping. Turner struck the first blow but this only awoke Travis, who rose, yelling for his wife. Another slave killed Travis with an axe, before turning the weapon on Travis's wife, her son, and a farmworker.

Gathering men as they went, the rebels attacked other farms, killing everyone they found. Soon the alarm was spread, church bells rang through the town and a local armed militia soon organised itself. In two days, the rebels killed 60 men, women and children, before the group was overwhelmed. Turner managed to escape, hiding out in the woods for two months before he was finally discovered. He was tried on 5 November and executed on 11 November 1831. His body was skinned and beheaded. The bloodiest slave rebellion in US history was over – but not forgotten.



On Sunday 30 October 1831, farmer Benjamin Phipps, armed with a loaded gun, spotted some out-of-place fence rails and discovered Nat Turner after he had eluded searchers for two months

★★★

"By 1804, every Northern state had outlawed slavery, while the economy of the Southern states still depended on it"

owners could sell off children and split husbands from wives. Punishments for misbehaviour were severe and when rebellions did occur, they were dealt with savagely.

In response to what Southerners called their 'peculiar institution', a growing abolitionist movement spread in the Northern states. Quakers were early opponents of slavery, and they formed the core of the first abolitionist society, the Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage, founded in 1775. This was later renamed the Pennsylvania Abolition Society in 1784. Founding Father Benjamin Franklin became its president.

Political power represented in Congress was evenly split between 'free' and 'slave' states, with 11 states on either side. However, as the United States spread westward, and new territories

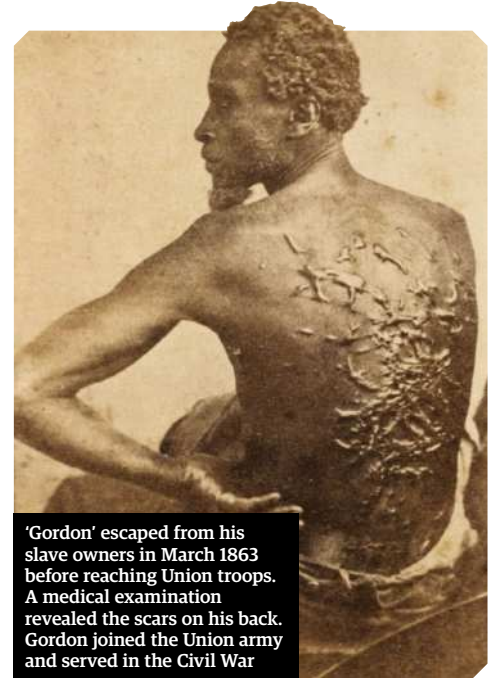
asked to be admitted to the union as states, there was a fierce argument over whether these would be 'free' or 'slave' states. When Missouri asked to join the union as a slave state, an agreement was made that another state, Maine, would also become part of the United States as a free state, keeping the uneasy balance. This agreement, called the Missouri Compromise, also said that any future states in the north would be 'free', while those in the south would be 'slave'. This meant that the same divide would be kept as the country expanded west.

Another attempt to find a solution was made in 1854 with the Kansas-Nebraska Act. This meant that the decision on whether new states should be free or slave should be decided by a popular vote. Many politicians left the slavery-supporting Democratic party to join the new

A Land of Hope Built on Suffering



A slave auction block at Green Hill Plantation, Campbell County, Virginia



'Gordon' escaped from his slave owners in March 1863 before reaching Union troops. A medical examination revealed the scars on his back. Gordon joined the Union army and served in the Civil War

anti-slavery party, the Republicans. When the state of Kansas voted on whether it should be 'free' or 'slave', many people from neighbouring Missouri crossed the border to vote for slavery. This changed the result of the vote, and angered abolitionists in Kansas. The conflict grew violent, with murders and beatings committed by both sides. This led to the new state being given the nickname 'bleeding Kansas'.

Some abolitionists became impatient that changes to the law were not being made quickly enough. One infamous anti-slavery campaigner, John Brown, believed that slavery was so great a sin that it could only be overcome with a great blood sacrifice. To do this, he attacked an arsenal, where huge numbers of weapons were kept,

at a town in Virginia. His aim was to trigger a rebellion of slaves. The attack failed, and Brown and most of his followers were either killed or executed. This event worsened the tensions between free and slave states.

In 1857, the Supreme Court ruled on a legal case that would become infamous. The Dred Scott Case declared that the descendants of Africans that arrived as slaves in the US could not be American citizens. This meant that the federal government had no power to outlaw slavery in the new territories being acquired in

The demand for cotton roughly doubled each decade after 1800, reinforcing the South's reliance on slavery

the west. Rather than settling the dispute over slavery, the Supreme Court's decision enraged abolitionists in the North. It also caused a split in the Democratic party, between pro- and anti-slavery supporters. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln's anti-slavery Republican party took advantage of the divide among the Democratic party and won the presidential election. In response, the Southern slave states withdrew from the Union, forming the Confederate States of America on 4 February 1861.

There would be no more talking, and the great moral question facing America would be answered in blood.

Slaves planting sweet potatoes. The majority of Southern slaves worked the land





The Abolitionist Movement in America

The anti-slavery movement grew from small beginnings to become a major voice for change, helping to spark President Lincoln's famous Emancipation Proclamation

Words by **Will Lawrence**



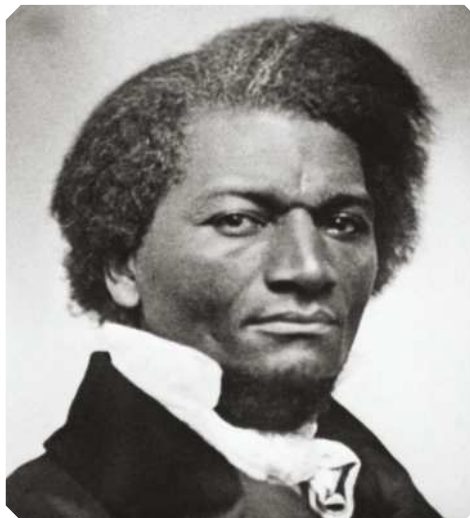
o many Americans in the early 19th century, the institution of slavery was horrific. After all, how could a country founded on the ideas of liberty and

the pursuit of happiness for all still allow the enslavement of millions? After the Revolutionary War against Britain, the newly created United States of America had abolished slavery north of the Ohio River. On 1 January 1808 a further law was passed that abolished the African slave trade in America.

Despite this, there was little serious political debate about the continuation of slavery in the South. In the early 19th century, many people in both the North and South remained convinced that slavery would just wither away. However, cotton production continued to prosper, which in turn transformed the economy of the Southern states, making many plantation owners rich.

These men and their representatives in government (very often politicians were also plantation owners) were soon defending slavery. As a response, many Northern politicians openly condemned it. This divided opinion in American politics and among academics.

It was around this time that a religious movement now known as the Second Great Awakening, swept the country, especially in New England and upstate New York.



Born into slavery, abolitionist Frederick Douglass became a man of letters whose sons fought in the Civil War



Newspaper publisher William Lloyd Garrison stood at the forefront of the abolitionist movement

These Puritan enthusiasts promoted Christian morals and also considered black souls to be as valuable as white. It was from this group that many of the most famous abolitionists emerged.

William Lloyd Garrison was among the most outspoken of the reformers, and a man who demanded the immediate abolition of slavery. In 1831, Garrison founded *The Liberator*, a newspaper to promote

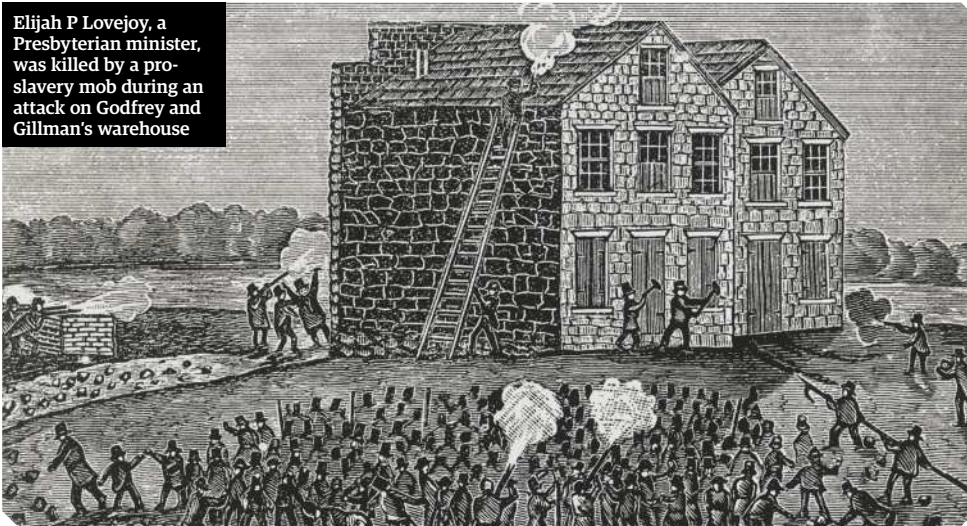
his movement. In 1837, he helped create the American Anti-Slavery Society. This society also gained some support from people like Theodore Weld, Angelina Grimké, Wendell Phillips, brothers Benjamin and Lewis Tappan, as well as a tenacious former runaway slave, Frederick Douglass.

Despite their passion, the abolitionists only gained small support in the Northern states and were often ridiculed by the public. Several publishers of abolitionist books and papers were attacked and one unfortunate soul, Reverend

The popularity of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* boosted support for abolition

The Abolitionist Movement in America

Elijah P Lovejoy, a Presbyterian minister, was killed by a pro-slavery mob during an attack on Godfrey and Gillman's warehouse

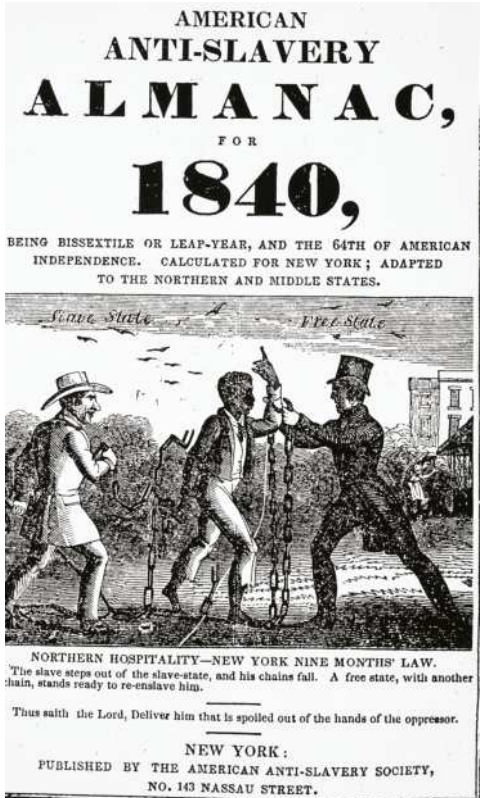


Elijah P Lovejoy, was killed in 1837. Even as late as 1850, the abolitionists remained a marginal force. In the words of one historian, however, "They lurked incorrigibly on the flanks of American politics." Their strength lay not in the number of voters that rallied to their cause, but in their ability to promote clever and consistent arguments against slavery.

During the 1850s, the abolitionists began to gain support, thanks mainly to newspaper coverage of escaped slaves. In 1850, Congress had passed an even more rigorous Fugitive Slave Law, which gave owners the right

to repossess their runaway slaves, with help from the government. However, throughout the decade, more and more similar cases emerged and slave owners soon found themselves confronted by local anti-slavery activists. A man named John Brown was among the most radical of reformers during this period, and called for armed opposition to slave owners.

By the 1860s, the tide appeared to have turned in the North of the country, with many beginning to feel shame that they alone, among the great developed societies of the world, still permitted slavery to continue.



The abolitionist movement proved an articulate employer of pamphlets and newspapers to publicise its views

As the Civil War unfolded, the abolitionists' voices grew louder. Realising that racism and a love of the Constitution might halt plans to make the freedom of slaves President Lincoln's main war objective, they instead argued it was needed to achieve victory. They pointed to the use of black people as a powerful rebel force. "The very stomach of this rebellion is the negro in the form of the slave," wrote Douglass. With the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, the abolitionists finally won their victory.

Images source: Getty Images

★★★
"The abolitionists only gained small support in the Northern states and were often ridiculed by the public"

METEOR OF THE WAR The most radical of abolitionists, John Brown, caused panic in the South with his bid to spark a slave revolt...

It was *Moby Dick* author Herman Melville who wrote in one of his poems that "weird John Brown" was the "meteor of the war". In 1859 this radical abolitionist formed a bold yet hasty plan to seize a store of weapons at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Brown hoped his raid would spark a slave uprising, something that many Southerners feared particularly in Mississippi and South Carolina where black people outnumbered white. However, Brown's raid instead helped trigger the American Civil war.

"Harper's Ferry," wrote the Richmond Enquirer, "coupled with the expression of northern sentiment in support... have shaken and disrupted all regard for the Union; and there are but few men who do not look

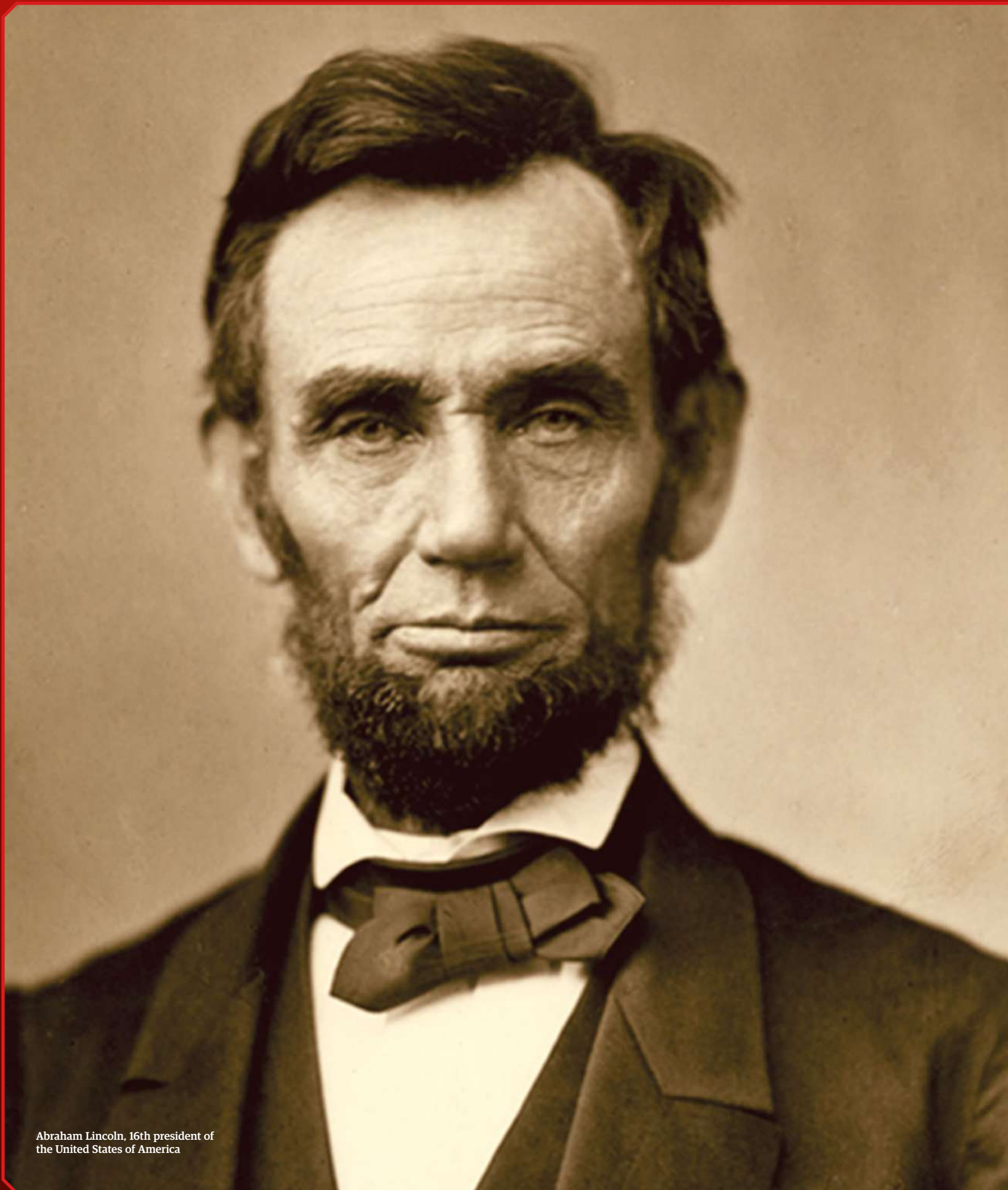
to a certain and not distant day when the dissolution must ensue."

Brown was a wild and ferocious man, who with his associates in Kansas had in 1856 murdered five pro-slavery settlers in

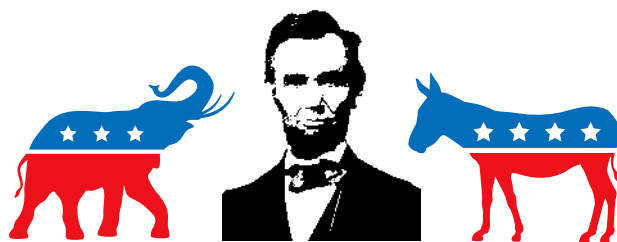


what became known as the Pottawatomie massacre. On 16 October, his band of 13 white and five black abolitionists took Harper's Ferry. Their victory, however, was short-lived – the rebellion he had dreamed of failed to materialise, and he was swiftly defeated by federal troops under Colonel Robert E Lee.

Along with six followers, Brown was hanged for treason and murder, his name seized upon by both pro-slavery supporters and abolitionists. To many of the former he was a symbol of Northern intent, while to many in the North he was a martyr. In a note found after his death, he'd written that the "crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood".



Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of
the United States of America



The Election of 1860

The election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860 was a victory for the anti-slavery Republicans and encouraged the slave-holding South to leave the Union

Words by **Marc DeSantis**

No other Presidential election in American history, before or since, has been so perilous and had so many significant consequences for the nation, than the one in 1860. In this year, the two main political parties, Republicans and Democrats, had split into new factions, representing the North and South. This meant there were many more candidates for the election. However, one of these candidates, the eventual winner, Abraham Lincoln, was not even listed on the election ballots in ten Southern states. The future president, to many the greatest that the US has ever had, saw six out of every ten voters cast their votes for some other candidate. Yet he still won the election, and would go on to serve as the United States' 16th president during the most trying four years of its existence.

Lincoln's main opponent for the 6 November election was John C Breckinridge of Kentucky,

the candidate for the Southern Democrats. Stephen Douglas, from Illinois, was the standard bearer of the Northern Democrats, who had separated from the Southern Democrats. The newly formed Constitutional Union Party put forward John Bell of Tennessee as its candidate.

Stephen Douglas constantly argued against breaking up the Union during his campaign. In these times, a candidate would ordinarily not travel about to solicit votes, but Douglas visited no fewer than 23 states while the election season was ongoing.

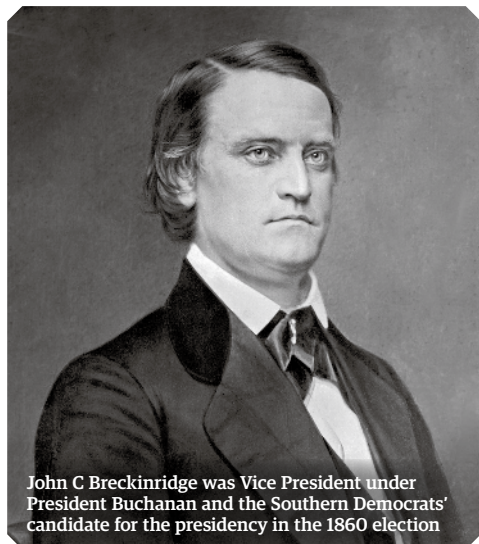
Douglas had realised early on that he had no path to victory. He saw that Lincoln's Republicans already won state elections taking place that October, and therefore knew that victory for him in the presidential election in November was almost certainly out of reach.

His motive in campaigning in person was to preserve the unity of the United

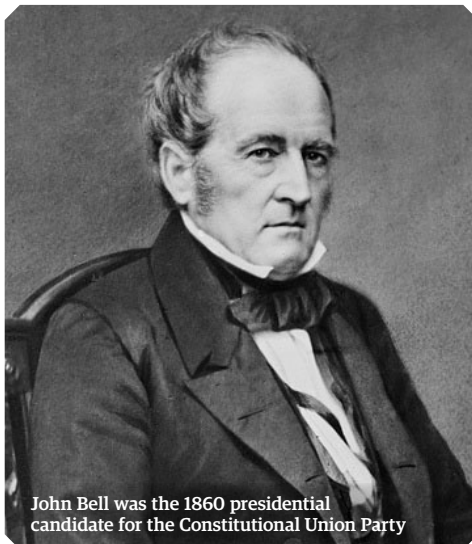
States. "Mr Lincoln is the next president," he acknowledged. "We must try to save the Union. I will go South."

Douglas was tireless in his bid to convince Southerners not to secede from the Union. But alas, his message to Southern voters was mostly received poorly. One hostile newspaper in Memphis, Tennessee, made note of his "bloated visage" that was now "turned toward the South." The same paper derided him a "peddler of Yankee notions," and someone who would "soon be hawking his pinchback principles over the South. He comes in our midst with no worthier motives than the incendiary."

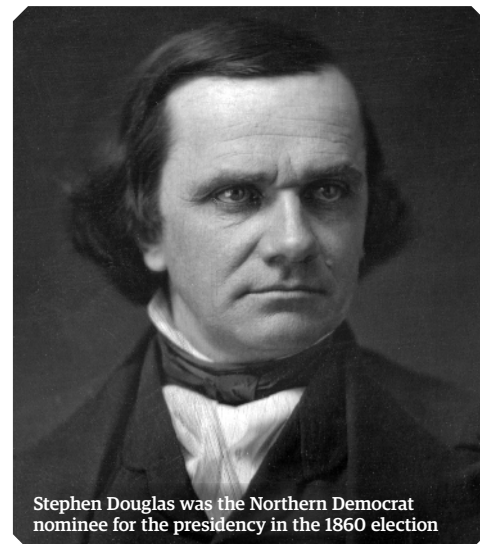
Talk of secession was common in the South, particularly in states where slave-worked cotton plantations dominated the economy. There was a fear among them that the Republican Party would take away their slaves, and this had to be avoided at all costs.



John C Breckinridge was Vice President under President Buchanan and the Southern Democrats' candidate for the presidency in the 1860 election



John Bell was the 1860 presidential candidate for the Constitutional Union Party



Stephen Douglas was the Northern Democrat nominee for the presidency in the 1860 election

Images source: Wiki



LINCOLN'S SECRET ENTRY TO WASHINGTON

Rumours of a plot against Lincoln's life forced him to enter the capital in disguise

Anti-Lincoln feeling was so strong that there were fears that president-elect Abraham Lincoln would come to harm before he made the journey to Washington DC. Lincoln had received death threats from the Washington area before he ever left Springfield, Illinois, for the capital. He forwarded these threats to General Winfield Scott, who told the president that he would place cannons on Pennsylvania Avenue. If any secessionist followers made an aggressive move, he would "blow them to hell."

Lincoln left Springfield by train on 11 February 1861, and made speeches at stops along the route. In the meantime, Allan Pinkerton, founder of the Pinkerton Detective Agency, had uncovered an assassination plot against Lincoln centred on the city of Baltimore, which lay close to Washington. This lay on the route that Lincoln would be taking.

While undercover, under the false name John H Hutchinson, Pinkerton made contact with a source who said that Lincoln might be attacked as he made his way through the city of Baltimore. Pinkerton next questioned Cypriano Ferrandini, an Italian who was a supporter of the South. Ferrandini insisted that Lincoln must not



Pinkerton's first corporate logo

become president and that he was ready to kill the president-elect himself, if necessary.

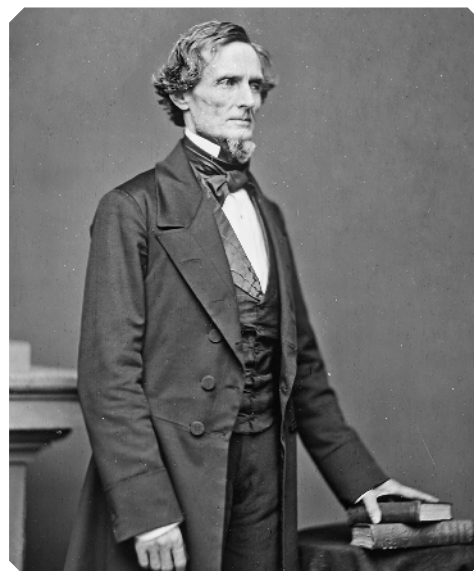
More evidence of plots against Lincoln soon emerged. Both Winfield Scott and William Seward in Washington had learned of a Baltimore attack and their own investigators had confirmed that an assassination plot was afoot.

Lincoln was disguised by Pinkerton as an invalid, with the president-elect bent over to obscure his identifiable height, and in the dark of the night of 22 February was put aboard a special sleeping car on the train leaving Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for the capital. With the help of the railroad, the telegraph lines between Harrisburg and Washington were cut, and other trains were moved over to sidings. Lincoln's train passed through Baltimore without incident at 3.30am and arrived safely in Washington at around 6.00am.



Allan Pinkerton, founder of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency

★★★
"Pinkerton had uncovered an assassination plot against Lincoln"



Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected provisional president of the Confederate States of America in February 1861

1830s until the middle of the 1850s. The two main parties previously had been the Whigs and the Democrats. The Whigs had fallen to pieces completely over the issue of slavery. Northern Whigs had opposed it, while those in the South had supported it.

The collapse of the Whigs left the Democratic Party as the largest national party. The Democrats, however, were also split over slavery. Many Northern Democrats were extremely anti-Southern in opinion, believing that their party had been torn from them by slavery-friendly Southern Democrats.

The Northern Democrats and politically homeless Northern Whigs combined with others who were fiercely anti-slavery in their beliefs. This new political alliance was called the Republican Party, which was formed in 1854. Though these Republicans were divided over any number of other issues that concerned the mid-19th-century Republic, they were united by their hostility to the South.

For most Republicans, slavery would eventually have to be eliminated. They were firmly opposed to the excessive power of the Southern slave states. The US Constitution allowed slave states to count their slaves as three-fifths of a free person, for the purposes of representation in Congress. This meant that the South's political power was larger than it would otherwise be on the basis of free persons alone. The free states of the North had a total population of 18.8 million, while the slave states of the South had just 8.3 million free persons. With the three-fifths counting of the South's approximately four million slaves, however, Southern political representation was boosted to 10.4 million.

The Northern states, on account of their far larger aggregate populations, offered many more votes in the Electoral College, 180 to 120,

ELECTORAL POLITICS

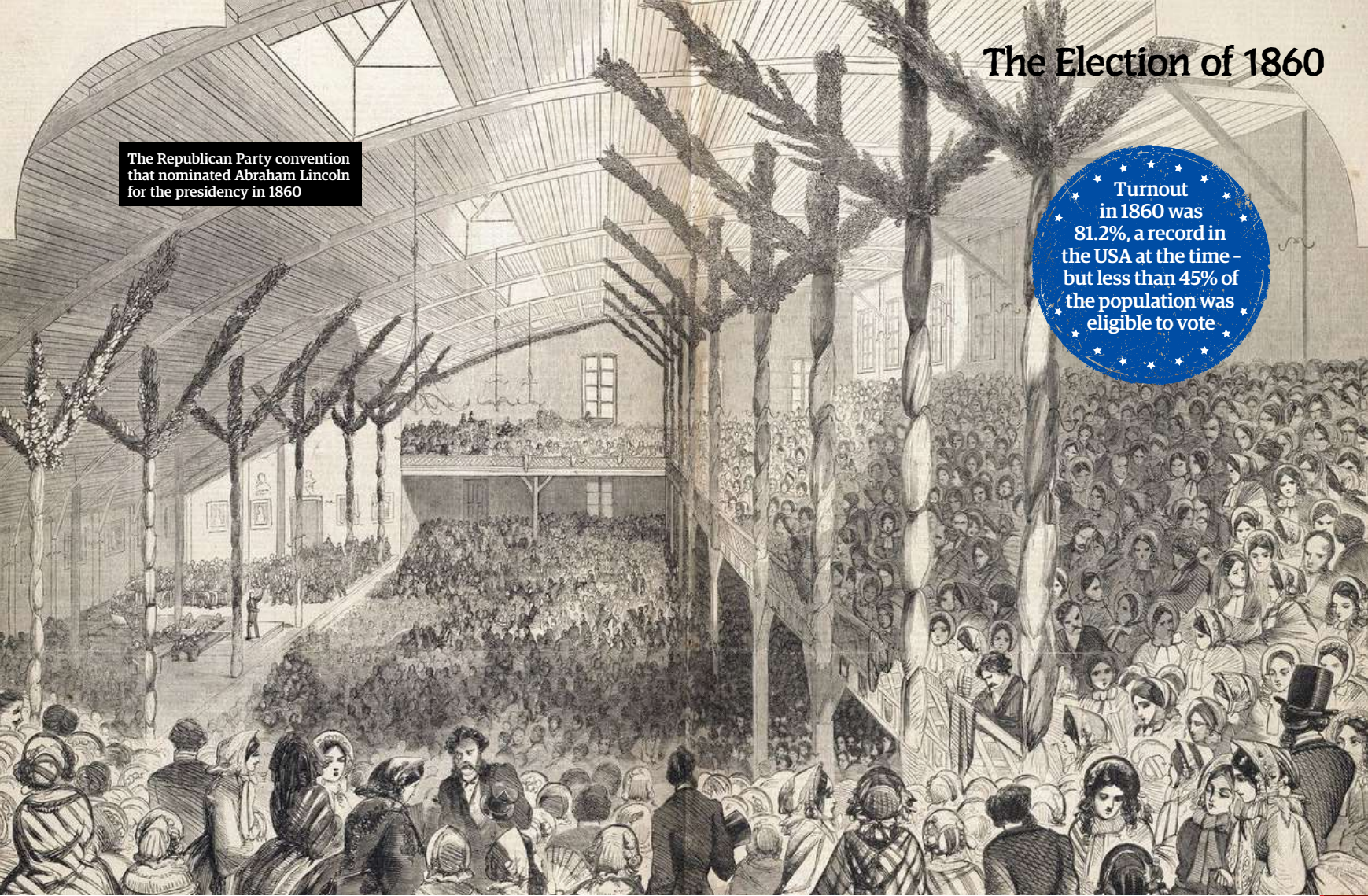
In 1860, there were 33 states in the Union, all of which participated in the election. 18 of these were free states, where slavery was illegal. 15 were slave states, where it was fully legal. The disagreement over the issue of slavery had only widened since America had gained its independence from Britain in 1783 and some believed it could not be overcome. Though slavery was legal under the United States Constitution, the institution itself had become utterly unacceptable to many Americans, especially Northern abolitionists, who wanted to do away with the practice entirely.

Southerners were mostly terrified of the potential consequences of the abolition of slavery, believing that it could cause a war between the races, as well as racial mixing. There could be no agreement between the abolitionists and the great mass of Southerners who wanted slavery to remain legal.

The 1860 election was also remarkable because it showcased the relatively newly formed Republican Party as the dominant political force in the free Northern states. The Republicans had emerged out of the collapse of the so-called second American party system that had prevailed from the early

The Republican Party convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency in 1860

Turnout in 1860 was 81.2%, a record in the USA at the time - but less than 45% of the population was eligible to vote



★★★ “Lincoln obtained the most votes out of all four candidates, despite not being on the ballots of ten Southern states”

which formally voted the president into office under the US Constitution. In theory, a candidate could win the presidency by gaining enough popularity with Northern voters that he would not need to win a single Southern electoral vote. So, the Republicans appealed exclusively to Northern voters with a promise to defend the Republic against slave interests. They were firmly against allowing slavery to take hold in the new territories being settled in the West, as the nation expanded towards the Pacific Ocean.

On 18 May 1860, the Republican Party held its national convention in Chicago, and nominated Abraham Lincoln, a lawyer from Springfield, Illinois. His experience of government was limited; he had not held political office since his single term in the House of Representatives had ended in 1849. Yet Lincoln was nominated because party politicians didn't think that the radical William Seward, the Republicans' other main potential nominee, could win with the

voters of critical states such as Pennsylvania, Illinois and Indiana.

ELECTION DAY ARRIVES

Election Day was 6 November 1860. In Springfield, Lincoln anxiously waited for the results from each state, which arrived by telegraph. It was past midnight when New York reported its final number, naming Lincoln as the winner. Lincoln did not win a single electoral vote from any of the 15 slave states.

John C Breckinridge won 11 of the 15 slave states, but he did so by winning just 848,356 popular votes. The Democratic Party vote was harmed by the failure of the party to put forward a single candidate for the presidency.

Lincoln obtained the most votes out of all four candidates, despite not being on the ballots of ten Southern states. He won the Electoral College with 180 electoral votes. His closest rival, Breckinridge, gained 72, and Bell took 39. Douglas

gained just 12 electoral votes, even though his overall individual votes numbered 1,363,876, far higher than Breckinridge's. Unfortunately, this sizable number only netted him the states of Missouri and New Jersey.

Lincoln would become the 16th president of the United States of America, made official in a ceremony on 4 March 1861. Many Southerners were appalled by Lincoln's victory, and there were more arguments for secession, especially among the 'fire-eaters' who wanted to leave the Union immediately. In their minds, the South was now in real danger with Lincoln on the way to the White House. South Carolina, where secessionism was popular, voted to leave the Union on 20 December 1860. After South Carolina, the states of Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Texas left the following February.

These breakaway states wasted no time in organising their own country. On 9 February 1861, Southern delegates elected Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as provisional President of the Confederate States of America, with its capital in Montgomery, Alabama.

This split in the nation, up until this point peaceful, would soon turn into an armed conflict. On 9 April, Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter, an island fort in the harbour of Charleston, South Carolina. Four years of bloody civil war would follow.



State of Play 1861-1862

Gathering men and supplies, the Union and Confederacy begin four years of costly conflict that transforms a nation

Words by **Mike Haskew**

T

wo months after Jefferson Davis is sworn in as president of the Confederacy, rebel guns fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, on 12 April 1861. The

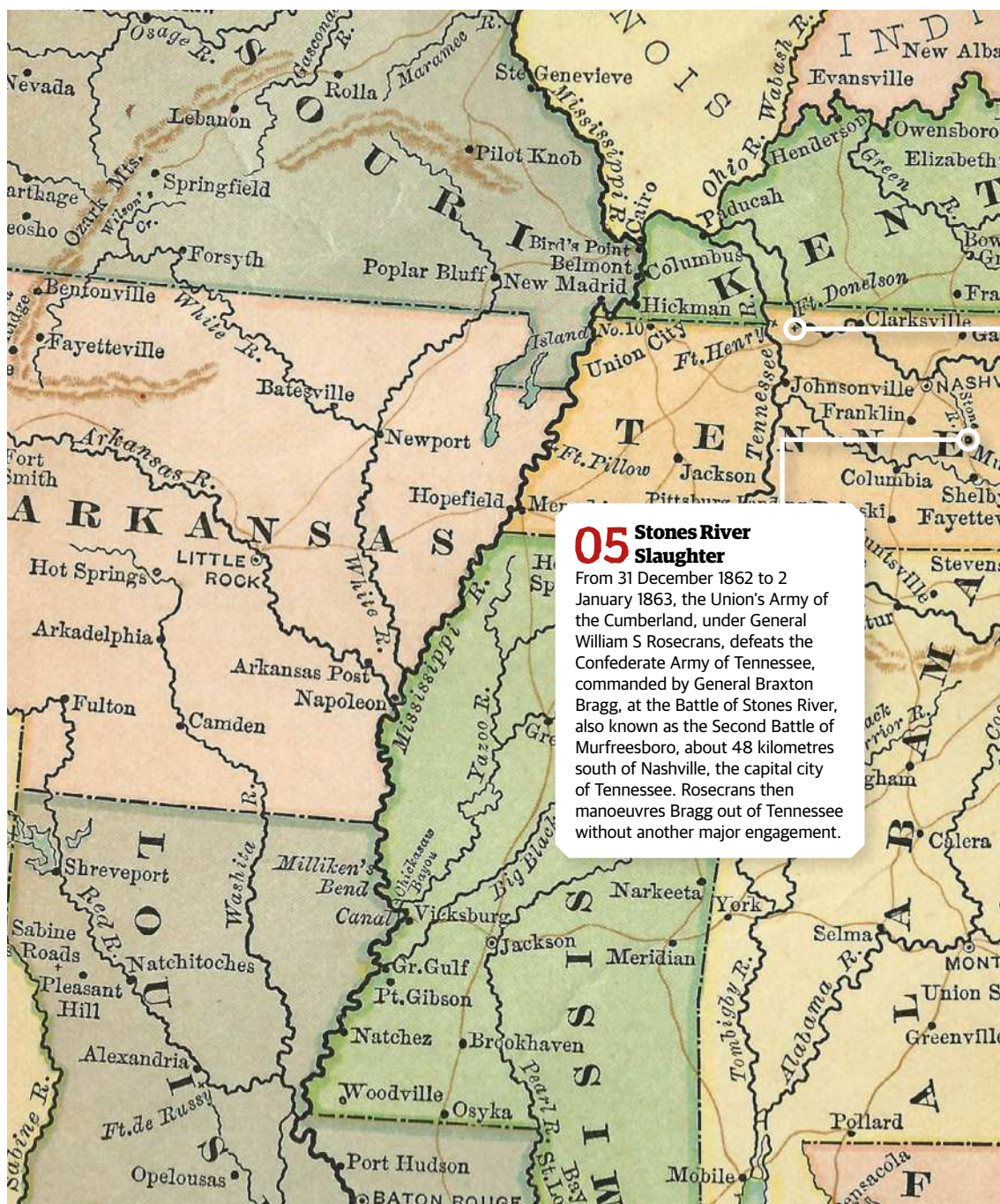
Union and Confederacy have reached the point of no return. Within a week, President Abraham Lincoln issues a call for 75,000 volunteers of short duration to put down the rebellion. The Union military begins its grand strategy, the Anaconda Plan, which is envisioned by General-in-Chief Winfield Scott.

In the east, the First Battle of Bull Run ends in Confederate victory as the Union army retreats. Confederate newspapers mock the North's performance, calling it the "Great Skedaddle". A second Union defeat is then suffered in August, at Wilson's Creek, Missouri, during the first major battle of the Trans-Mississippi Theatre. In November, the Trent Affair, involving the arrest of two Confederate diplomats, raises the spectre of a war with Great Britain.

By the spring of 1862, the killing has begun to reach a massive scale. At Shiloh in West Tennessee, the two sides suffer about 20,000 casualties, but Union forces under General Ulysses S Grant win a victory. In August, at Second Bull Run, the Union army suffers a stinging defeat at the hands of General Thomas J 'Stonewall' Jackson's Confederates, and the bloodiest day in American history occurs at Antietam, in Maryland. Then, at the end of the year, the Union's Army of the Potomac suffers huge casualties in the Battle of Fredericksburg.

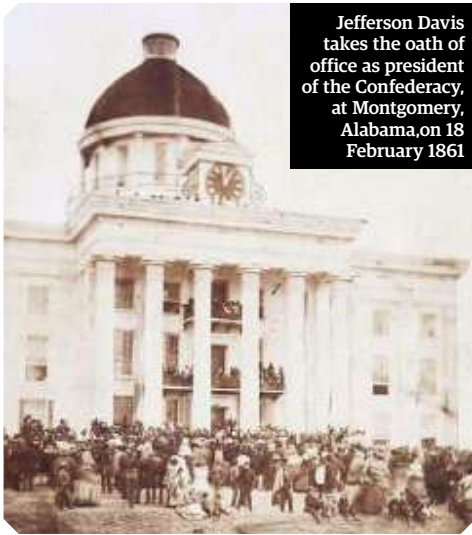


Fighting rages along Stones River, near the town of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, during a three-day battle beginning on 31 December 1862



05 Stones River Slaughter

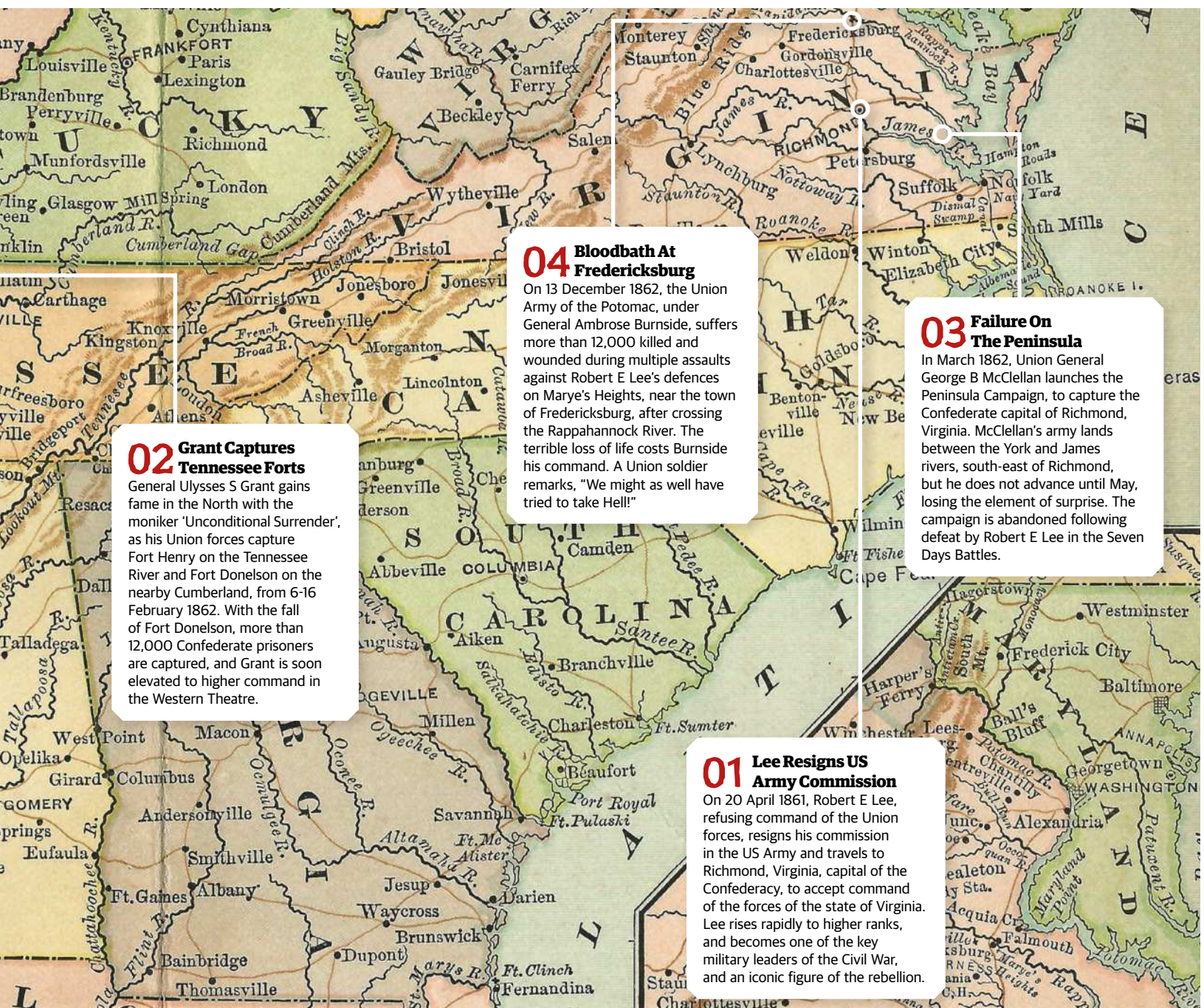
From 31 December 1862 to 2 January 1863, the Union's Army of the Cumberland, under General William S Rosecrans, defeats the Confederate Army of Tennessee, commanded by General Braxton Bragg, at the Battle of Stones River, also known as the Second Battle of Murfreesboro, about 48 kilometres south of Nashville, the capital city of Tennessee. Rosecrans then manoeuvres Bragg out of Tennessee without another major engagement.



Jefferson Davis takes the oath of office as president of the Confederacy, at Montgomery, Alabama, on 18 February 1861



Confederate and Union troops blaze away during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, in Missouri, the first major battle in the Trans-Mississippi West



02 Grant Captures Tennessee Forts

General Ulysses S Grant gains fame in the North with the moniker 'Unconditional Surrender', as his Union forces capture Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the nearby Cumberland, from 6-16 February 1862. With the fall of Fort Donelson, more than 12,000 Confederate prisoners are captured, and Grant is soon elevated to higher command in the Western Theatre.

04 Bloodbath At Fredericksburg

On 13 December 1862, the Union Army of the Potomac, under General Ambrose Burnside, suffers more than 12,000 killed and wounded during multiple assaults against Robert E Lee's defences on Marye's Heights, near the town of Fredericksburg, after crossing the Rappahannock River. The terrible loss of life costs Burnside his command. A Union soldier remarks, "We might as well have tried to take Hell!"

03 Failure On The Peninsula

In March 1862, Union General George B McClellan launches the Peninsula Campaign, to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. McClellan's army lands between the York and James rivers, south-east of Richmond, but he does not advance until May, losing the element of surprise. The campaign is abandoned following defeat by Robert E Lee in the Seven Days Battles.

01 Lee Resigns US Army Commission

On 20 April 1861, Robert E Lee, refusing command of the Union forces, resigns his commission in the US Army and travels to Richmond, Virginia, capital of the Confederacy, to accept command of the forces of the state of Virginia. Lee rises rapidly to higher ranks, and becomes one of the key military leaders of the Civil War, and an iconic figure of the rebellion.

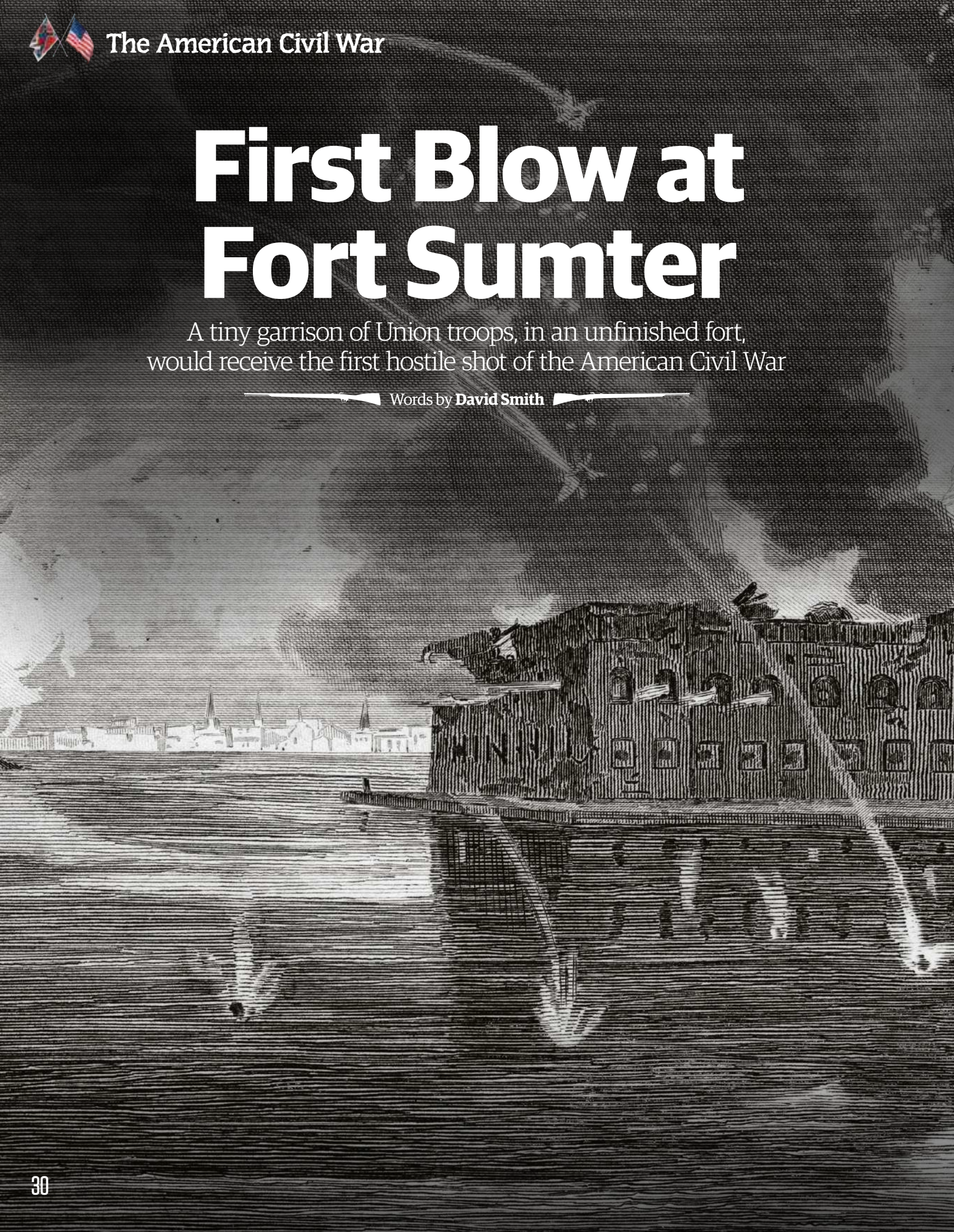


The American Civil War

First Blow at Fort Sumter

A tiny garrison of Union troops, in an unfinished fort, would receive the first hostile shot of the American Civil War

Words by David Smith





Although in 1861, war appeared almost unavoidable, neither side wanted to be the first to attack. Being seen as the aggressor would have been damaging politically. Meanwhile in the North, James Buchanan was entering his final months as president. Understandably, Buchanan wanted to get through his remaining days in office without the nation erupting into open conflict, so he planned to let Abraham Lincoln, elected in 1860, to deal with the crisis after he took over the job.

The situation was tense, and areas where violence could break out were easy to identify. Most obvious were certain forts in the South occupied by Union troops. These included Fort Moultrie at Charleston and Fort Pickens at Pensacola Bay, in Florida.

The commander at Fort Moultrie, Major Robert Anderson, came from a respected military family. His father had defended the same position against the British during the War of Independence and now he had the

responsibility of holding the line against a potential new attacker. The problem, however, was that Fort Moultrie was in no fit state to be defended. So, on 29 December 1860, Anderson decided to shift his garrison across a mile of water and instead make his base at Fort Sumter.

This was a bold move. Anderson's decision was made without orders from Washington, but had severe consequences. In fact, he had been asking for instructions for a long time and had received nothing back. The South viewed his move as an act of aggression. While Buchanan wished this crisis could have waited until he left office, he had to face this final test. Should the North hold on to the fort, meaning sending extra troops to protect it; or should they let it go? There was to be no easy answer.

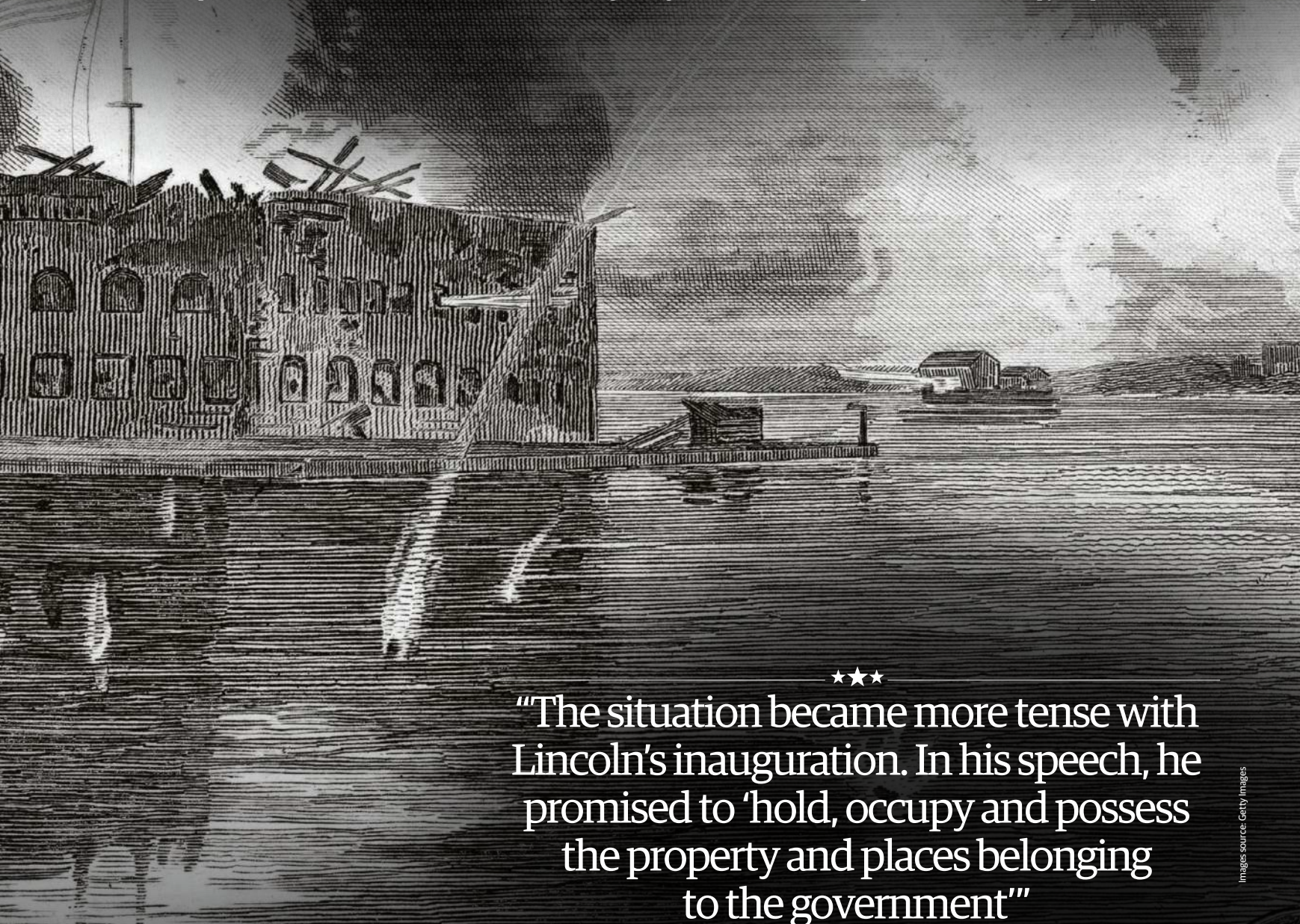
MANNING THE GUNS

Anderson, a Kentuckian who had married a Georgia girl, had been expected to turn to the Confederate cause, but his loyalty to the Union proved stronger than family ties. He now set about organising his limited resources.

Sumter was an impressive structure, with three decks of gun positions. However, it was unfinished and required 650 troops properly defend. Anderson had just 85, as well as a number of workers. It was also possible to mount 146 guns in the fort, but only 81 were actually in place. Of these, just 15 were properly installed and ready to use. Anderson immediately set to work moving more of the 66 guns into position. Due to the lack of men, Anderson decided to occupy only one level of the fort, the most heavily protected of the structure. Meanwhile, South Carolinian forces continued to gather outside.

The first attempt to reinforce Fort Sumter came on 9 January 1861, when a merchant ship carrying supplies and 200 men appeared off the coast and attempted to reach the fort. It was driven away by land batteries. Anderson did not open fire with his own guns in defence of the ship, in case it started a war.

The situation became more tense with Lincoln's inauguration. In his speech, he promised to "hold, occupy and possess



★★★

"The situation became more tense with Lincoln's inauguration. In his speech, he promised to 'hold, occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the government'"

An artist's impression of the terrible conditions within the fort during the artillery bombardment



the property and places belonging to the government". This obviously included Fort Sumter, but three officials from the South were present in Washington that day to negotiate handing the fort to the South. Lincoln's secretary of state, William H Seward, assured the southerners that Fort Sumter would be given up without a fuss.

By this point, the fort had less than six weeks of supplies remaining and Lincoln realised that it would need support. After sending Captain Gustavus Fox to visit the fort and report back, the president decided the fort would be resupplied.

Recognising how this action would appear to people in the South, Lincoln informed the authorities in Charleston that he would not

★★★ "There was now little chance of avoiding violence"

attempt to "throw in men, arms or ammunition", unless an attack was made upon the fort. The resupply would be strictly limited to provisions for the garrison already in the fort. On 6 April 1861, the relief fleet was ordered to set sail.

Each side was now waiting for the other would make the first aggressive move. Senator Robert Toombs, who later served as secretary of state in the Confederate government, was among the many men who recognised that the nation was poised on a knife edge. "The firing on that fort," he warned, "will inaugurate a civil war greater than the world has yet seen." Others wanted the violence to begin to convince the states bordering with the South to join the Confederacy.

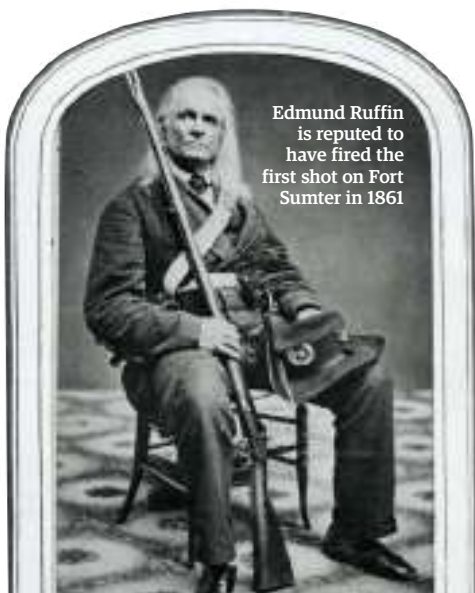
South Carolina's governor, Francis Pickens, had hoped to avoid making the first move in the Fort Sumter affair, but with the knowledge that a relief fleet was on its way, he was forced into action.

THE RACE TO RESUPPLY

General Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard was given orders to demand the surrender of the fort. Beauregard

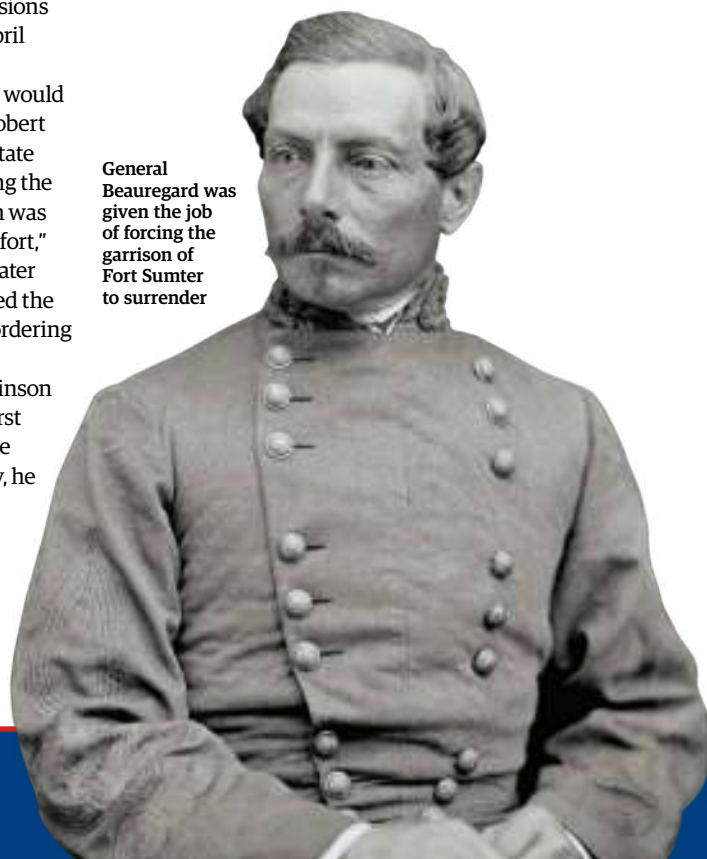
was an energetic character known as the 'little Frenchman'. Awkwardly, he had also been a student of Anderson's at West Point, the US's best military college. The steady approach of the Union fleet added a further element, a ticking clock that demanded action. There was now little chance of avoiding violence.

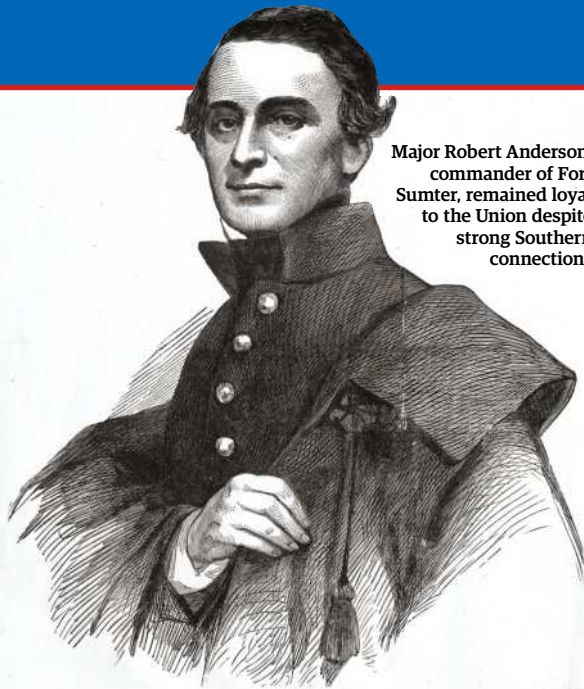
Beauregard offered Anderson generous terms if he would abandon the fort, but the major refused, knowing that the resupply fleet was on its way. He did, however, let Beauregard know that he was near to running out of food and offered to



Edmund Ruffin is reputed to have fired the first shot on Fort Sumter in 1861

General Beauregard was given the job of forcing the garrison of Fort Sumter to surrender





Major Robert Anderson, commander of Fort Sumter, remained loyal to the Union despite strong Southern connections

surrender if he hadn't been resupplied by 15 April. Whether this was an attempt to buy time is uncertain, but Beauregard was not in the mood to wait. At 3.30am on 12 April, Anderson was given one hour's notice that a bombardment of the fort was about to start.

Exactly who fired the first shot of the war is debated. Some argue that the honour should actually go to whoever fired against the ship attempting to resupply Fort Sumter in January. A signal shot went up from Fort Johnson on James Island, and the first shot aimed at Fort Sumter was fired at 4.30am, from guns close to Morris Island. The shot came from an eight-inch Columbiad gun, said to be fired by Edmund Ruffin. The American Civil War had started.

There is no doubt over who fired the first shot in reply. Anderson's second-in-

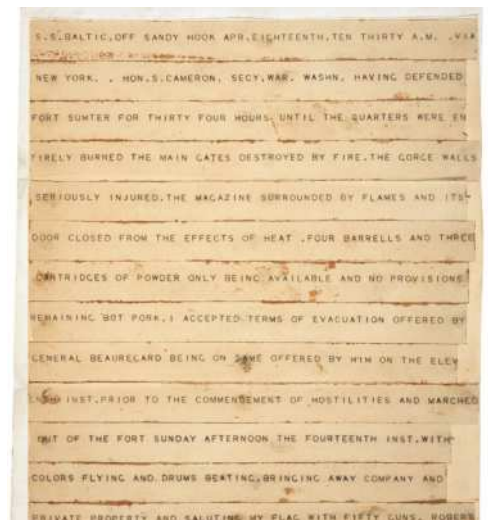
command, Captain Abner Doubleday, was granted the honour and fired a shot back at the Confederate guns. It was the start of an uneven duel. Anderson's men could bring only 21 guns into action and the majority were just 32-pounders, loaded with roundshot. The Union soldiers had no mortars and no shells to respond to the Confederate bombardment. The Southerners had 30 large guns and 18 mortars, splitting them between six batteries, or groups, some of which were out of range of Fort Sumter's guns. The return fire of the Union garrison was more an act of defiance, and they threw only 1,000 shots back in response to the 4,000 they received over a 33-hour period.

Beyond the military clash, the civilian population of Charleston were curious to witness the start of the war. Many locals came out to watch, some bringing along picnics and settling down for a long day of entertainment. There was no doubt which side would emerge victorious. The relief fleet, which had been scattered by a fierce gale, was eventually spotted off the coast but it did not dare to run up to the fort while it was under attack. Although they had at first been relieved to see the ships appear on the horizon, the men at Fort Sumter quickly realised they were not going to be rescued.

The Confederate shots set fire to the barracks in the fort and did a large amount of damage to the brick walls, but apart from a few injuries there was little effect. Remarkably, the first action of the war caused no fatalities.

THE FALL OF THE FORT

By the following morning, the guns of Fort Sumter were unleashing just one shot every ten minutes, as ammunition ran low. Eventually Anderson accepted the inevitable. With only



The telegram sent by Major Anderson explaining his surrender of Fort Sumter

three shots remaining, he agreed to enter into talks. At 1.30pm on 13 April, he agreed to surrender his exhausted garrison. A 50-gun salute, to honour the Union flag as it was lowered the next day, sent an ember into what was left of the fort's supply of gunpowder. The huge explosion claimed the life of Private Daniel Hough. The first person to die in the American Civil War did so by accident.

The truth of the build-up to the assault was immediately disputed. It is clear that both sides would have preferred the other to have attacked first. Lincoln certainly wanted to make sure it was the Confederates who fired first, but in reality, all were preparing for a fight.

There was no turning back once shots had been fired. Within days of Sumter's surrender, both sides began building their armies.

AN APPETITE FOR WAR

The violence at Fort Sumter brought about powerful emotions on both sides of the great divide

The fall of Fort Sumter had a huge impact on both sides. Oddly, there was almost a sense of relief that the tension had been broken. North and South were each confident of victory, both sure that the war would be brief and decisive. Few people seemed to predict the horrors about to begin.

Leading the jubilation after the outbreak of the war were the newspapers. Northern publications declared that "all squeamish sentimentality should be discarded, and bloody vengeance wreaked upon the heads of the contemptible traitors who have provoked it by their dastardly impertinence and rebellious acts". Southern journalists were equally aggressive in their reports.

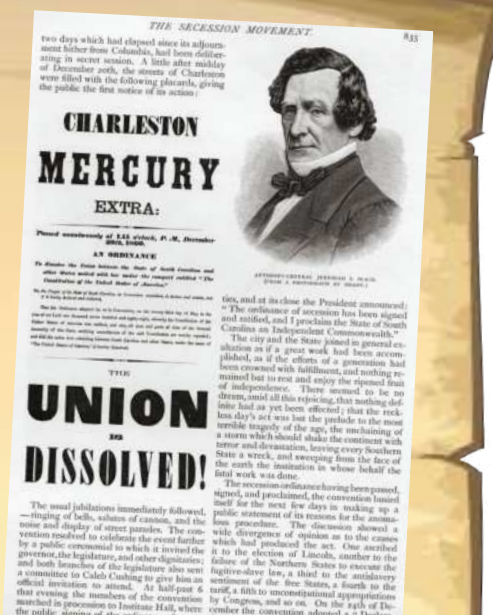
Neither side had any doubt that their cause was right, and neither seemed to notice that there were no fatalities during the fort's capture. "The Nation

has been defiled," an Indianapolis newspaper railed. "The National Government has been assailed. If either can be done with impunity... we are not a nation, and our Government is a sham."

Many private citizens also wrote down their thoughts in personal diaries and letters. Many of these writings speak of outrage at the actions of the other side. "I had rather be dead than see the Yanks rule this country," wrote one citizen from North Carolina.

Neither side was able to see from the other's point of view. This disagreement was summed up neatly when the same song was used an anthem for the civil war causes of both North and South. Each heard their own story echoed in the melodies of the George Frederick Root composition, 'Battle Cry of Freedom'.

The Charleston Mercury was the first Confederate newspaper to be published following secession



Images source: Getty Images, Wiki



Life and Death in the Ranks

A single nation produced two armies when the American Civil War broke out, but they each grew to become very different

Words by **David Smith**



Colourful images of the Civil War armies in action fail to show the usually horrific nature of the battlefield



he standard image of the armies of the American Civil War is not entirely correct. Blue-coated Union troops did indeed take to the field against grey-uniformed

Confederates, but this familiar picture not entirely true. In reality, soldiers on either side were not always easy to identify, whether by the weapons they were using, or even the uniforms they wore. The two forces had much more in common than many people think.

To start with, these were two armies drawn from one nation. The sense of unity in that nation had become increasingly strained, but the men who faced each other at Bull Run, Gettysburg and Nashville were more alike than not.

Despite the armies' many similarities, however, each opposing force had its own characteristics, and many of these developed and intensified as the war continued. After peace broke out in 1865, soldiers from opposite sides of the battlefield could look on each other as genuinely different.

SONS OF THE LAND

Both the North and South were mainly reliant on farming at the opening of the war. Industry in the North was advancing quickly, but most men who joined the Union army were from the countryside, with only a quarter of the soldiers coming from towns of greater than 2,000 people. In the South, this difference was even greater. Only ten per cent of the population of the Confederate states lived in towns or cities numbering more than 2,000 people.

When the war broke out, the country had a tiny regular army numbering just 16,000 men. Large permanent armies had never been kept in the country since the American Revolution. This small regular army was expanded slightly, but it was a huge temporary force that would do the fighting for the North.

On 15 April 1861, Abraham Lincoln called for a militia army of 75,000 volunteers, to serve for just three months. This number of men seems small compared with the millions of troops that would eventually take part in the conflict. Also, the request for three months of service shows perhaps that the president perhaps that the war could be won quickly. Months later, Congress agreed for half a million more volunteers to be recruited. By May 1865, more than a million men would be in uniform, with around two million in total serving the Union over the course of the war, including around 180,000 African-Americans.

Most men joined up with a sense of fighting for a worthy cause, although some were also just looking for adventure. This worthy cause was to save the Union. At the start of the war, the issue of slavery was not a major motivation for many in the Union ranks. Conscription was introduced in March 1863 under the terms of the Enrolment Act. In 1862 a law was passed that forced people to join up, but this was only in states that had not supplied the required number of volunteers.





The American Civil War

THE NUMBERS GAME

In the South, politicians and generals also failed to predict how huge the war would become. On 6 March 1861, the Confederate Congress ordered an army of 100,000 for a period of 12 months. After war actually broke out, this number was quickly increased to up to 400,000 men, to serve in the army for three years. In the North, a similar change in recruitment numbers also quickly took place.

With the South's population being roughly a third that of the North's, its army was also smaller. It reached its largest total in June 1863, when 475,000 men were marching under the Confederate flag. By this time the Confederate States Army had adopted a conscription system, meaning men of a certain age were forced to join the army. However, this was rarely needed as most men volunteered rather than suffer the embarrassment of being drafted.

In both the Union and Confederate armies, regiments were grouped into brigades, brigades into divisions, divisions into army corps and corps into armies. In the North, armies were named after major rivers, while Southern armies were named after states.

A CHANGING BATTLEFIELD

When these armies went into battle, they fought in much the same way. This is not a surprise, as they used the same instruction manual.



“The men who faced each other at Bull Run, Gettysburg and Nashville were more alike than not”

Because the infantryman was by far the most important soldier on the battlefields of the American Civil War, both sides heavily referred to the book *Rifle And Light Infantry Tactics*. It was heavy reading, with more than 500 pages almost entirely filled with advice on positioning infantry and moving into different formations in the face of the enemy. The book was almost entirely out of date in this period. Different editions of the same book were even used, which confused things even further. Officers fighting on the same side would arrive at the battlefield with entirely different methods for command.

For example, when threatened by cavalry, infantry no longer formed into a square formation. This tactic was no longer necessary, because the huge range and accuracy of guns made a line of infantrymen far too dangerous for cavalry to charge.

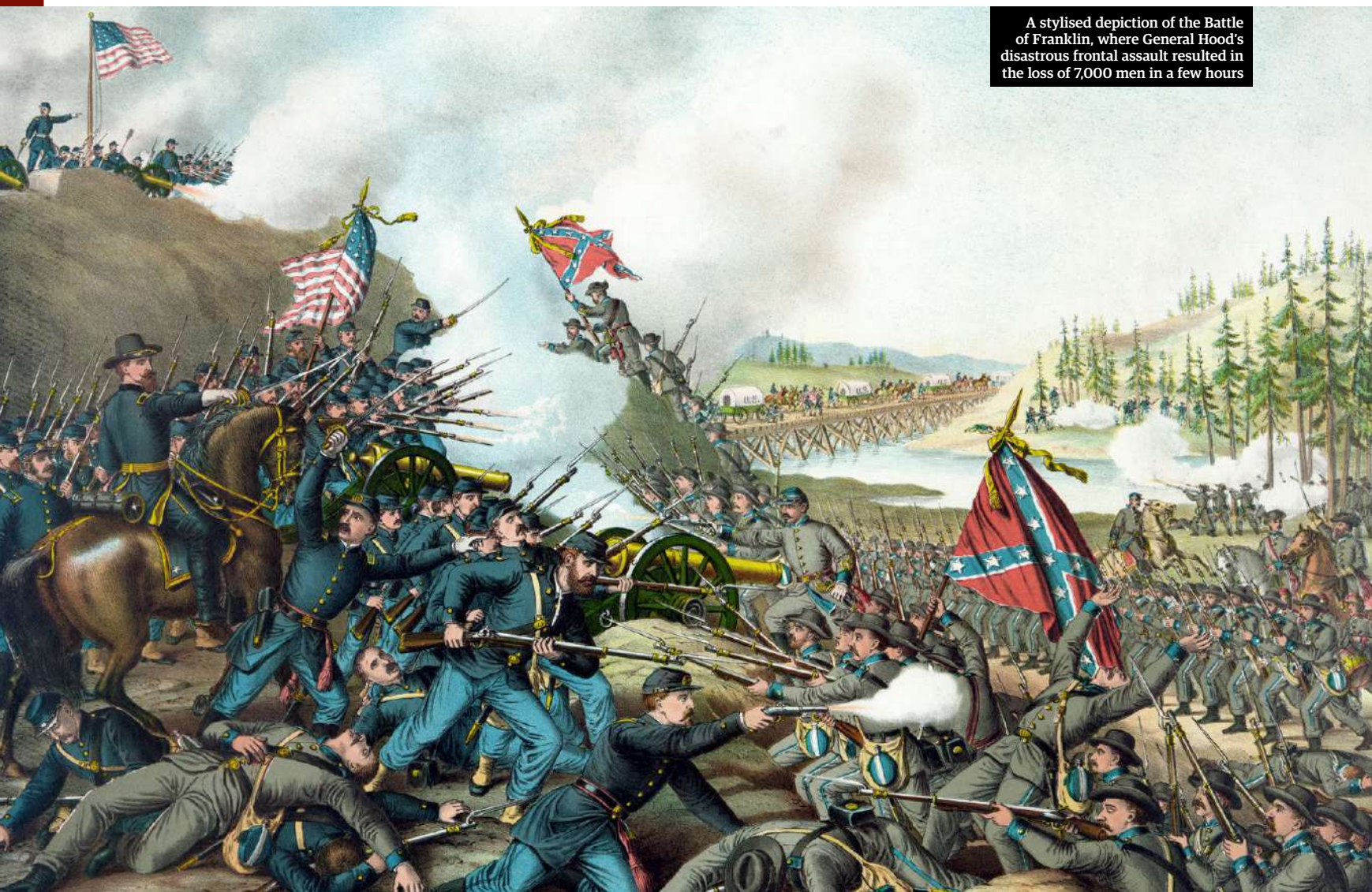
Each side was also familiar with the other's weapons. Breech-loading rifles did give the North an advantage in the later stages of the war, but

the rifled musket was the main weapon used. Generals also thought of new tactics as the war continued. The 'advance by rushes' tactic quickly replaced the dangerous method of advancing in packed ranks. However, there were still far too many deadly assaults against prepared defences. At the Battle of Franklin, in November 1864, the Confederates' General John Bell Hood sent his troops headfirst against Union positions and lost 7,000 in a matter of hours.

Officers played a huge part throughout the conflict and here at least the South had an advantage over the Union. Seven of the eight military academies in the United States at the outbreak of war were based in the South.

The North possessed a better system of railroads, better supply chains and more plentiful food, ammunition and other materiel. These advantages would only increase as the years passed. In November 1864, Lincoln gave a speech that must have caused dismay in the weakened Confederate States. “We have more men

A stylised depiction of the Battle of Franklin, where General Hood's disastrous frontal assault resulted in the loss of 7,000 men in a few hours



now than we had when the war began," he stated to Congress. "We are gaining strength and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely."

SOUTHERN COMFORT

The North may have held many advantages, but the Confederates had faith in the quality of their men. Importantly, the North shared that belief. The idea that the South was a land of noble warriors was a powerful one. In the South, morale remained high even after Confederate armies suffered terrible defeats. Southern troops also tended to be better at using guns before they enlisted, though battle experience soon meant the Union fighters could match them.

In terms of cavalry, the Confederates had an early advantage. However, generals insisted on their troopers providing their own horses, which led to a steady decline in their numbers. Men whose horses were killed in battle either had to buy a replacement or join the infantry. In any case, during this period, cavalry were no longer the powerful and decisive units of

More than 110,000 of the 2 million men who served in Union armies died from wounds received on the battlefield

Artillery had lost its dominance on the battlefield, but still played a key role in defensive works



SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Clothing and feeding the huge armies of the Civil War pushed both North and South to the limit

Supplying the armies of the Civil War was a huge task. As well as the massive sizes of the armies themselves, they were operating across vast stretches of territory. Many commanders, especially in the South, preferred to let their men live off the land, although this meant moving on quickly to avoid devastating the area.

Rations were strikingly similar for both sides – pork or bacon with bread or flour, along with coffee and sugar, were the most common meals. Depending on availability, a soldier might also get rice, crackers or peas, but the diet was poor enough that scurvy was not uncommon.

All too often, a soldier had almost nothing at all to eat unless he found it himself. The hungry men in the Army of Tennessee,

trudging their way towards Nashville in December 1864, often had nothing more than a couple of ears of corn per man. Union troops tended to be better fed, and generally enjoyed superior clothes. Southern soldiers were supposed to be provided with smart uniforms, but often a man had to provide his own clothing, which would become increasingly worn out over time.

Late in the war, Union forces also deliberately targeted the farmland and railroads in the South. General Sherman made his infamous march through Confederate territory, destroying railways, factories and mills of Georgia and South Carolina. This severely damaged the Confederates' already struggling supply system and their ability to continue fighting.

Sherman's march through Georgia deliberately targeted the South's supplies



previous conflicts. During the American Civil War they were useful mostly for scouting or harassing fleeing enemy.

Artillery guns were arranged in groups, called batteries, of up to six or so pieces. As with cavalry, their effectiveness on the battlefield had decreased greatly as the firepower available to the ordinary soldier made it lethal for cannons to approach to close range. The use of canister shot (metal cylinders packed with musket balls) was also far less effective than during the Napoleonic era as gun crews risked annihilation if they allowed enemy infantry to get close enough to use this short-range ammunition.

YANKEES AND REBELS

Life in each army would have been familiar to men from the opposite ranks, but that does not mean the armies thought or acted in the same way. Southern troops were infamously harder to manage and were freer in spirit. In addition, after five years of bitter fighting against the North, they felt themselves distinctly different to the Union men, who had not so long ago been fellow American citizens.

The Confederate cavalry commander Nathan Bedford Forrest summed up this idea as the war drew to its end in 1865. "Be not allured by the siren song of peace," he told his men. "You can never again unite with those who have murdered your sons, outraged your helpless families, and with demonic malice wantonly destroyed your property, and now seek to make slaves of you." The armies of the North and South had started out from much the same position, but they had journeyed to very different destinations.



Civil War



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
1809-65

Although most famous for his decision to emancipate the slave population of the Southern states, Lincoln's initial goal on the outbreak of war was simply to preserve the Union. In fact, his election campaign had been clear that he did not intend to attack the institution of slavery where it already existed. Once convinced of the need to abolish slavery, however, Lincoln was resolute and even described the Civil War as God's punishment for the vile trade.

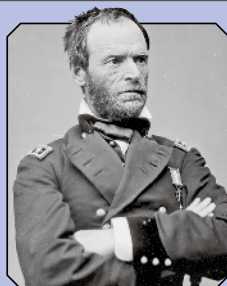
The 16th president of the United States had a keen military mind, and recognised that decisive victories were hard to come by. He did, however, struggle to get his generals to act with vigour. As the war hardened his commanders, he gradually saw victory approach, although his assassination cut short his satisfaction of guiding the nation back to unity.



ULYSSES S GRANT

TENACIOUS GENERAL WHO BROKE THE CONFEDERACY
1822-85

Grant rose through the ranks with a reputation for instilling discipline in his men. The capture of Vicksburg and other victories earned him the position of commander of Union forces in the Western Theatre, before he was promoted to lieutenant general in the regular army. Tackling the Confederates' leading general, Robert E Lee, in a series of battles, Grant showed a tenacity that had been missing in previous commanders. Having forced Lee out of Petersburg, he maintained the pursuit and forced the Confederates to surrender at Appomattox, on 9 April 1865. Grant's great gift was to recognise that pressure needed to be applied to the enemy, even at great cost. This would puzzle those who knew him, who struggled to reconcile the slight, gentle man in front of them with the ruthless commander who brought the Confederacy to its knees.



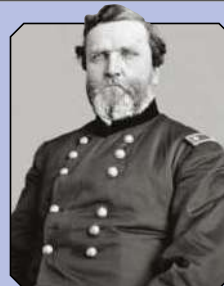
WILLIAM SHERMAN

Commander Sherman saw warfare as nothing more than an evil that needed to be brought to an end as quickly as possible, favouring 'scorched Earth' policies.



GEORGE MCCLELLAN

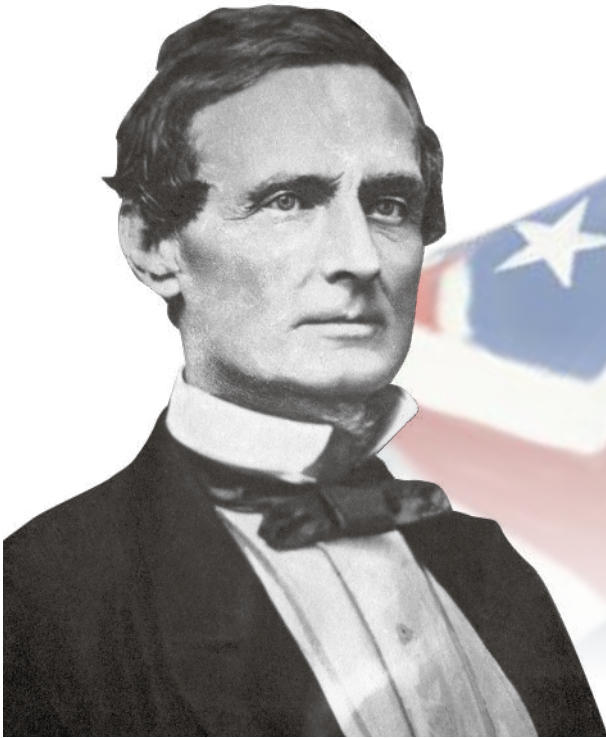
McClellan was quickly elevated to overall command, where he displayed a genius for organisation but also a timidity that reportedly drove Lincoln to distraction.



GEORGE THOMAS

Despite a reputation for being ponderous and overly cautious, Thomas won one of the Union's greatest decisive victories at the two-day Battle of Nashville.

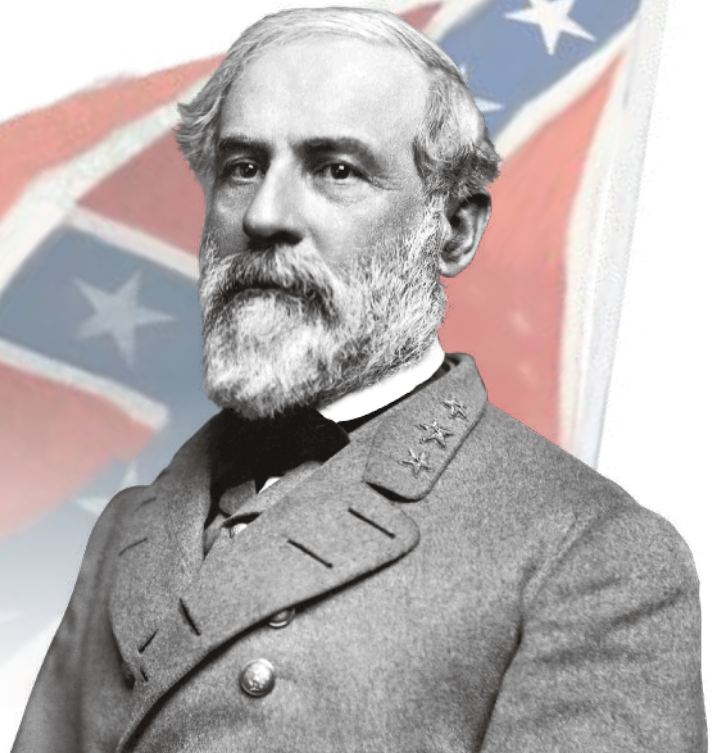
Leaders



 **JEFFERSON DAVIS** 

THE ONLY PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES
1862-65

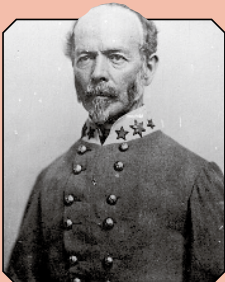
As the first and last president of the Confederate States, and commander-in-chief of Confederate forces, Davis had a monumental task on his hands and the enormity of it eventually broke his health. A gifted military man, he believed in the necessity to expand the number of slave-owning states to balance with the Northern free states. In terms of military strategy, he believed the South needed to resist the North at every point. Aware that he could not muster as many men as the Union, he advocated dispersing forces to be moved rapidly to the point of crisis. It was a sensible and workable plan, but eventually crumbled as the North was able to mount multiple incursions into Confederate territory. After the war, Davis remained defiant and was briefly imprisoned, but was released due to poor health. He never swore allegiance to the Union.



 **ROBERT E LEE** 

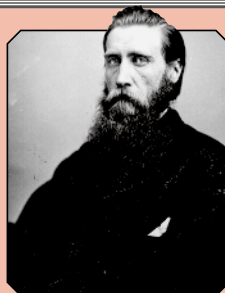
SYMBOL OF THE SOUTH
1862-65

Few men emerged from the war with a reputation as glowing as that of General Lee. Respected as a commander, he came to epitomise the notions of civility and urbanity associated with the South. If Lee had a flaw, it was his preference for offensive action. This aggressive approach led to high casualties, which the Southern states were ill-equipped to absorb. His quest for glory echoed that of the Continental Army in its struggle with the British almost a century earlier. But where the Americans had won such a victory at Saratoga, Lee's push for a decisive victory led to the costly defeat at Gettysburg. Having danced around his Union counterparts early in the war, Lee found himself increasingly constricted as his numbers dwindled, and he was eventually penned in, besieged in the antithesis of the sort of warfare he championed.



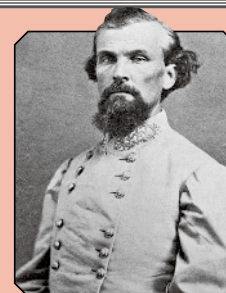
JOSEPH JOHNSTON

As an exceedingly cautious general, Johnston did not initiate many offensive moves, but instead he was skilful and dogged on the defensive.



JOHN HOOD

Hood climbed the ranks quickly, but suffered severe injuries during the war. He was given command of the Army of Tennessee at the age of 33.



NATHAN FORREST

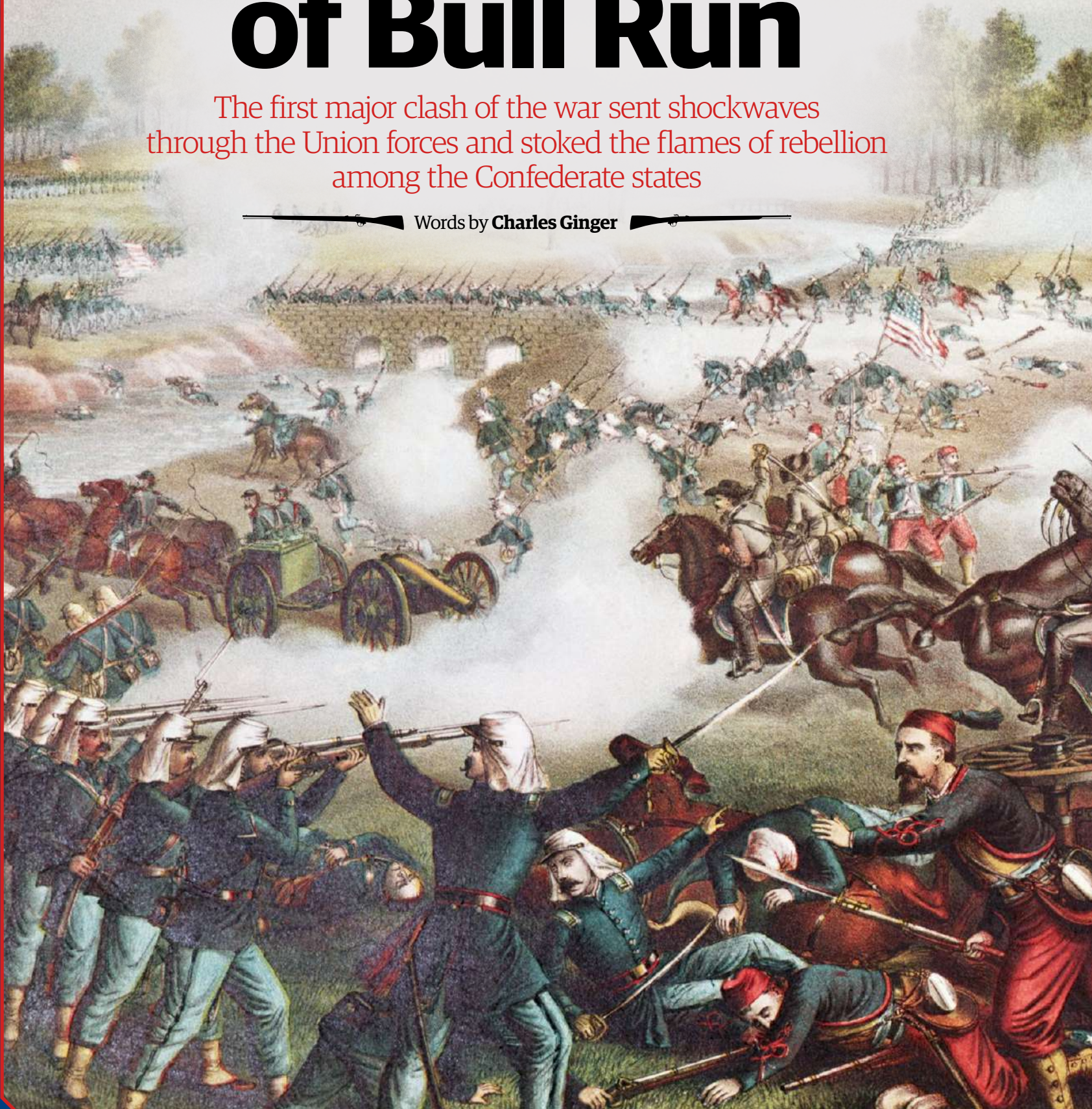
Despite not attending military school, Forrest proved to be a superb cavalry commander, often cited as the best such soldier in his nation's history.



The First Battle of Bull Run

The first major clash of the war sent shockwaves through the Union forces and stoked the flames of rebellion among the Confederate states

Words by **Charles Ginger**





he major opening clash of the American Civil War, the First Battle of Bull Run, provided a harsh wake-up call to anyone who had thought there would be a quick end to the rebellion. This clash claimed the lives of around 850 men and horribly wounded countless more besides.

When Abraham Lincoln won the election to become president in November

1860, he promised to keep slavery out of the western territories that were yet to become states. Despite Lincoln's assurances in his inaugural address that he had "no purpose to interfere with the institution of slavery where it exists in the United States", the South feared the North would eventually seek to ban all slavery, which was vital to the South's plantations and farms. South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana



Images source: Wiki



The American Civil War

and Texas seceded from the United States, but the war itself didn't break out until 12 April 1861. Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter, an island fortress that controlled Charleston harbour, in South Carolina. Lincoln replied by calling for 75,000 volunteers to support the US Army in crushing the uprising. In response to this show of force, another four states (Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee) joined the Confederacy.

With the stage set for war, Major McDowell was promoted to the post of Brigadier General and placed in charge of the Department of North-Eastern Virginia. Though McDowell felt that his 35,000 recruits would require extensive training, political pressure forced him to go on the offensive.

McDowell made a plan to outflank the Confederates stationed at Bull Run (around 25 miles from Washington DC) and set off from the capital on 16 July 1861. Unfortunately for the Union general, a Confederate spy named Rose O'Neal Greenhow had obtained his plans and passed them on to General Beauregard. Aware that reinforcements were headed via rail from the Shenandoah Valley to Beauregard's position, McDowell launched an early attack on Beauregard's army. The battle began with artillery fire at 5.15am on 21 July.

Alerted by shots striking alarmingly close to where he was eating breakfast, Beauregard responded to the Union attack by trying to defend his exposed left flank. He also waited to hear how the planned attack on the Union's left flank was going. However, these plans failed, because the troops had not received Beauregard's orders. When a Union brigade under the command of Colonel William T Sherman crossed the Bull Run river to attack the right flank, the Confederate lines began to buckle. Only fierce resistance by Thomas Jackson prevented the Union soldiers from closing in for the kill. Jackson's steadfast defence here earned him the name 'Stonewall'.

Fortunately for the Confederates, reinforcements soon began to arrive, enabling them to establish a defensive line on the slopes of Henry House Hill. Having stopped McDowell's advance, the Southern army turned the tide in the mid-afternoon when the 33rd Virginians stormed an artillery battery. This attack gained a foothold on the battlefield that eventually led to the Confederates seeing their enemy retreat around an hour later.

This crushing Union defeat sent shockwaves across the previously confident Northern states. Civilians who had travelled to watch the battle, as though watching a show, quickly became horrified as the Union uniforms unexpectedly fled the field. It was now clear to all that the war would not be decided quickly with a single battle. Rather than ending the Confederate rebellion against the North, Bull Run had stoked the flames of rebellion that would engulf the United States for years to come.

FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN

05 McDowell's fatal error

Confident that he has the Confederates hopelessly trapped on the hill, McDowell decides to attack with his artillery to grind down the enemy. He decides not to occupy the ground his men have won.

09 Forced from the hill

At around 4pm the remaining Union troops are finally pushed off Henry House Hill and sent into a scattered retreat. At the same time, Colonel Oliver O'Howard's brigade finds itself on the wrong end of an assault on Chinn Ridge (west of the main battle) from two Confederate brigades recently arrived from Shenandoah Valley. At the sight of the enemy's collapse, General Beauregard orders his entire army to move forward. Total victory is within his grasp.

07 Turning the tide

Having held their ground against repeated attack, the Confederates spot a chance to put the enemy artillery out of action. The 33rd Virginia Infantry Regiment charges the guns of Captain Charles Griffin, who moved two of his guns to the southern end of his line with the aim of enveloping the enemy with cannon fire. During this successful charge, Captain James Ricketts' battery of the 1st US Artillery is captured by the Southerners.

06 Stonewall arrives

Further Confederate reinforcements arrive led by Thomas Jackson. The officer earns his famous nickname during a determined defence of his position from around noon until 2pm. It is alleged that when Jackson vowed, "We will give them (the Union) the bayonet", Brigadier General Barnard Bee (who died during the battle) exclaimed to his men, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer."

08 A fiery exchange

Desperate to plug the holes torn in their flank by the Confederate onslaught, Union infantry rushes to engage the 33rd Virginia Regiment. A bloody struggle for the Union artillery begins, during which they change hands several times. Encouraged to "Yell like furies!" by Jackson, the cry of the Confederates' 'rebel yell' fills the air as they smash into the Union ranks.





10 Union retreat Having begun an organised, calm withdrawal from the battlefield, the Union soldiers soon panic when a blast of artillery overturns a wagon rolling among them. Along with a number of terrified civilians who had come to witness the battle, the soldiers of the North scramble back to the capital Washington DC in complete disorder.

01 Opening salvo Intent on attacking the Confederates' right flank in order to draw fire away from the main advance, McDowell orders Colonel Israel Richardson to position his guns at Blackburn's Ford. At 5.15am Richardson fires the first shots of the day, his artillery rains cannon fire down on the enemy positions across the water. Some shots fly far enough to smash down close to where General Beauregard is eating his breakfast.

02 Sherman takes the initiative The Union men press their advance on the Confederate left flank, hoping to force them to flee before reinforcements arrive. At the same time, Colonel William Sherman orders his men to cross an unguarded part of the creek and hit the Confederate right flank, catching their opponents off guard. After rushing to hold off the Union thrust before Sherman's intervention, Confederate Colonel Nathan 'Shanks' Evans now finds himself withdrawing with his men to the slopes of Matthews Hill.

03 Confederate collapse Despite fighting hard, the Confederate line begins to crumble under intense pressure from the surprise Unionist attack against its right flank. A chaotic retreat to Henry House Hill begins at about 11.30am.

04 Stand and fight Fortunately for Evans and his fellow commanders, help arrives in the form of Captain John D Imboden's artillery battery, which unleashes a hail of fire on the pursuing Unionists for long enough to enable the Confederates to establish a defensive line on Henry House Hill. A total retreat is avoided.



Commanding general of the United States Army, General Winfield Scott, developed the so-called Anaconda Plan to defeat the South



The Plan for Victory

Northern strategy relied on damaging the Confederacy by blocking its ports and controlling traffic across the Mississippi River

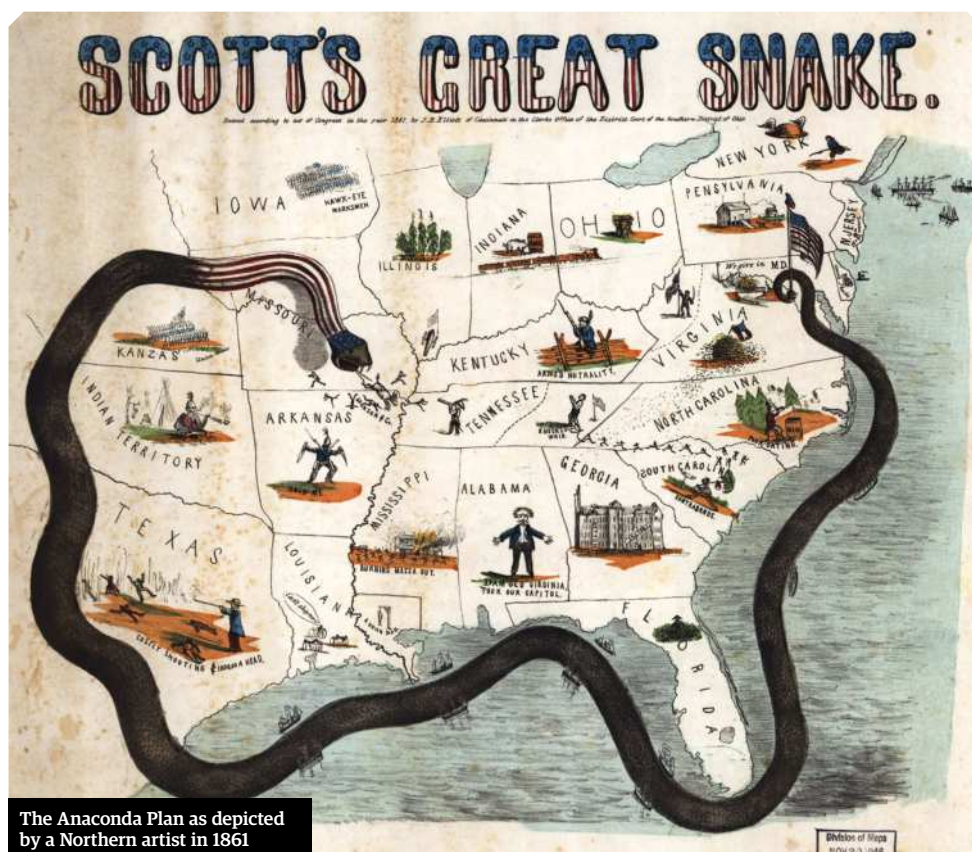
Words by **Marc DeSantis**



In April 1861, with the slave states of the Confederacy breaking away from the Union and a civil war dawning, President Abraham Lincoln ordered the navy to block off the Southern coastline, from the Potomac River in Virginia, all the way around Florida to the mouth of the Rio Grande in south Texas. This strategy to defeat the Confederacy was developed by the United States Army's commanding general, 74-year-old General-in-Chief Winfield Scott.

Scott's first need was to make a plan of action against the South. A war plan was created by 34-year-old General George McClellan and sent to Scott in late April 1861. McClellan planned for the war to be short, and thought that final victory could be won by two separate Union armies. These forces would steamroll their way through different parts of the South, crushing any Confederate opposition along the way.

Scott disliked much about the McClellan plan, because he thought it was being too optimistic, particularly in how long the war might last. He modified it, adding in his own ideas, and presented the altered plan to President Lincoln on 2 May 1861. In Scott's own words, the Confederates would be surrounded by a "cordon of posts on the Mississippi to its mouth from the



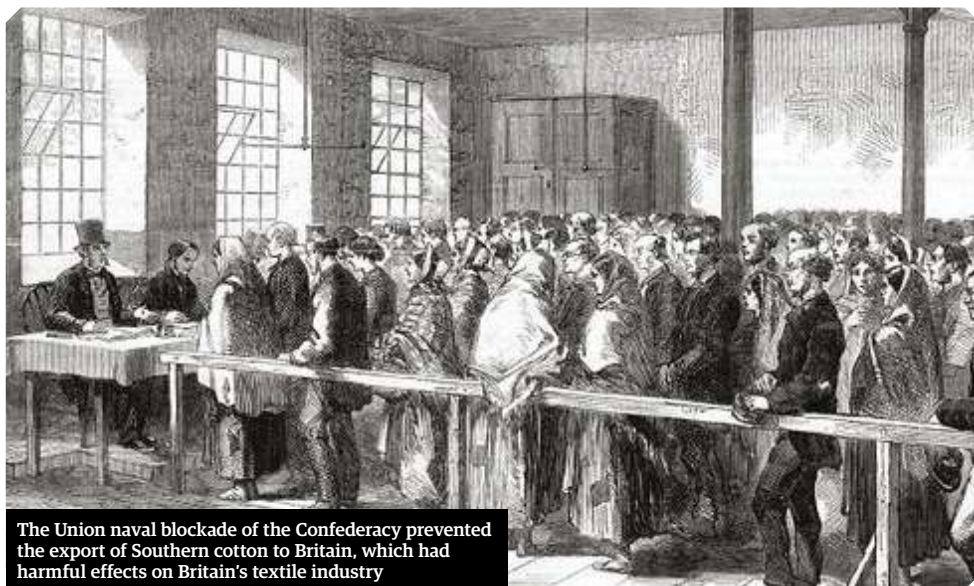


junction with the Ohio [River], and by blockading ships of war on the seaboard."

Scott himself warned that the "greatest obstacle in the way of this plan - the great danger now pressing upon us - the impatience of our patriotic and loyal Union friends." There were constant demands for "instant and vigorous action, regardless, I fear, of consequences," a worried Scott wrote. Scott also disliked the idea of an invasion of the South, and thought that such an attack, if it occurred, would actually prevent a settlement of the secession crisis.

Scott's plan was endlessly examined by Northern newspapers, and it was dubbed the 'Anaconda' plan after the South American constrictor snake that slowly suffocates its prey. A printmaker in Cincinnati, Ohio, produced a map of the Confederacy being grappled by a giant snake, and entitled the work 'Scott's Great Snake.' Generally, Northerners approved of the Anaconda Plan, but many more radical newspapers opposed the idea. One newspaper predicted that pro-Union Southerners would "be crushed out... long before the anaconda has got the whole country enveloped in its coils". However, another paper urged immediate action, and an invasion of the Confederacy. "Forward to Richmond! Forward to Richmond!" it insisted.

Pressure on the Union to act quickly was intense. William Tecumseh Sherman, who would later find fame and promotion within the United States Army, had spoken with General Scott and was sure of his superior's judgement. "Scott knows what he is about," Sherman believed, but he also worried that with "so many pushing him that he says he may be beaten, by Genl. Impatience". Unlike many others in the North, Scott believed that the civil war would last a long time.



The Union naval blockade of the Confederacy prevented the export of Southern cotton to Britain, which had harmful effects on Britain's textile industry



"The 'Anaconda' plan was named after the snake that slowly suffocates its prey"

THE ELEMENTS OF ANACONDA

Scott kept much of the Anaconda Plan, beyond its broadest outline, to himself. No less than Abraham Lincoln would say that "Scott will not let us outsiders know anything of his plans." Scott explained his strategy in broad strokes to Lincoln that May. It contained four key elements. First, the United States Navy would blockade the Confederate coast, as the president had ordered the previous month. This would act to sever all

links between the South and the outside world. Scott understood that the South gained a huge amount of its income from the trade of cotton and tobacco. Stopping their shipments overseas would therefore harm the Confederacy's ability to either pay for or import weapons and other military supplies.

Second, the western rebel states of Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas would be cut off from the eastern Confederate states by the capture of the full length of the Mississippi River. Third,

RUNNING THE BLOCKADE

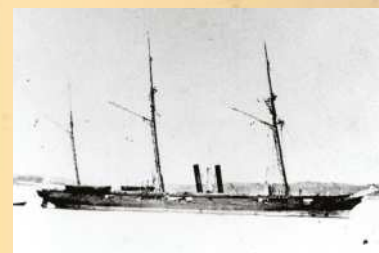
How rebels braved the blockade to obtain goods from the outside world

Southerners did not sit by while the Union blockade strangled their economy and harmed their war effort. They used fast ships to run the blockade to carry on trade with the outside world. In the early days of the blockade, before the Union cordon tightened to suffocating levels, runners could gain fantastic profit of over 700 per cent on a single voyage.

A typical blockade runner was a steam-driven vessel. They would not be fitted with masts and sails, and would often be painted grey to better hide in the grim expanse of the open ocean. Cargo from abroad would be deposited in neutral ports closer to the Confederacy, such as in Cuba, Bermuda and the Bahamas, to make deliveries and collections easier. While in port taking on their cargoes, the blockade runners

were off-limits to Union attack, but once they left the haven of the neutral harbour and were in international waters, they were under constant threat from US warships.

Not every blockade runner hauled supplies though; some were fitted as commerce raiders. One notorious blockade runner was the CSS Florida. The 700-ton vessel had been built for the Confederates in Liverpool, England, and then steamed to the Bahamas, under the name of Oreto. Here it loaded guns and ammunition that had been shipped separately from Britain. In August 1862, its British markings were taken down to be replaced by those of the Confederacy. Renamed Florida, it was tasked with stalking the high seas, hunting down Union merchant ships.



CSS Florida ran the Union blockade twice and became a scourge of Union shipping for two years

Blockade runners were not as effective as they might have been. The Confederate government failed to bring the runners under central direction, leaving the organisation to private citizens. Blockade runners therefore tended to carry cargoes that would fetch the highest prices, not those the Confederate war effort required most.



United States Navy Flag Officer David Glasgow Farragut captured the Mississippi port of New Orleans in April 1862

the Confederate armies in Virginia would be subjected to huge pressure. Last, the United States Navy would act in concert with the United States Army to move troops about and support them ashore with naval artillery fire.

Scott did not predict large battles against the Confederate armies, though these did eventually occur many times. Scott's goal was to crush the rebels by cutting off their income. "We rely greatly on the sure operation of a complete blockade of the Atlantic and Gulf ports," he wrote. Alongside the blockade, Union forces would also make a "powerful movement down the Mississippi to the ocean." The Confederate states would therefore be encircled and loss of life, in Scott's mind, would be kept to a minimum.

THE BLOCKADE

Once the goal of the blockade had become fixed, there remained the practical problem of how to put it into practice. Oddly, the US Navy had a better understanding of the coasts of Mexico and Africa, having operated off of them in earlier years, than it had of the coasts of the United

States. US Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles gathered the Commission of Conference, also known as the Blockade Board, to gather whatever information could be found in the United States governmental archives about the Southern shores. The Blockade Board produced seven reports on the nature of the Confederate coastline over the summer and autumn of 1861. These reports were afterwards used with the overall Anaconda strategy.

Among the recommendations made by the Blockade Board was the need to capture naval bases between Hampton Roads, Virginia, and Key West, Florida. Union blockading forces would benefit from having stations where they could take on coal - the fuel of steam warships - and make repairs.

The blockade itself would also be enhanced once these additional bases were captured. This is because they would help prove to the outside world that the United States maintained full control of its coastline. European attitudes toward the rebellion was of great importance to President Lincoln, who did

not want to see the Confederacy win diplomatic recognition as an independent state.

The Blockade Board also suggested that two separate ship squadrons should be organised on the Atlantic seaboard, depending on the nature of the coasts they would have to guard. The dividing line between their areas of operations was set along the state border between North and South Carolina. The Blockade Board said that the Hatteras Inlet, a key point on the map for Southern blockade runners, should quickly be captured.

The Board also suggested that the Gulf of Mexico coast should be better guarded. The United States maintained only one naval base along this vast stretch of shoreline, at Key West, and this was far away from the major Confederate ports at Mobile, Alabama, and New Orleans, Louisiana. A base nearer to both should be occupied, the Board decided, and recommended that Ship Island, which lay off the Mississippi coast between the two ports, be captured.

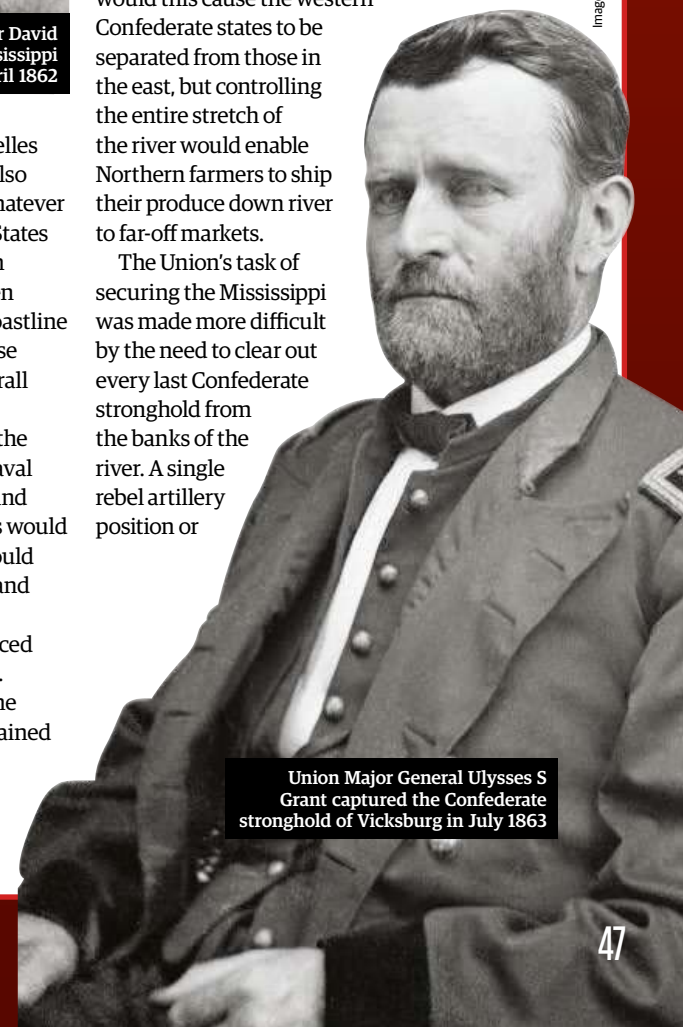
Though the blockade would never, and could never, be totally perfect, it did begin to have a serious and rapid effect on the South, harming its ability to continue fighting against the North. Ammunition stocks began to empty soon after the blockade was established.

DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi River, in the Western Theater, was another crucial part of the Anaconda Plan. General Scott had called for a step-by-step movement down it until Union armies held the whole of the river from the Ohio River in the north all the way to its outlet at the Gulf of Mexico. Not only would this cause the western

Confederate states to be separated from those in the east, but controlling the entire stretch of the river would enable Northern farmers to ship their produce down river to far-off markets.

The Union's task of securing the Mississippi was made more difficult by the need to clear out every last Confederate stronghold from the banks of the river. A single rebel artillery position or

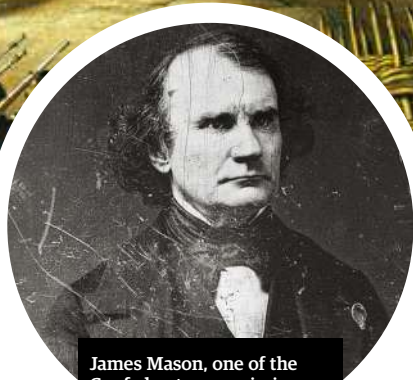
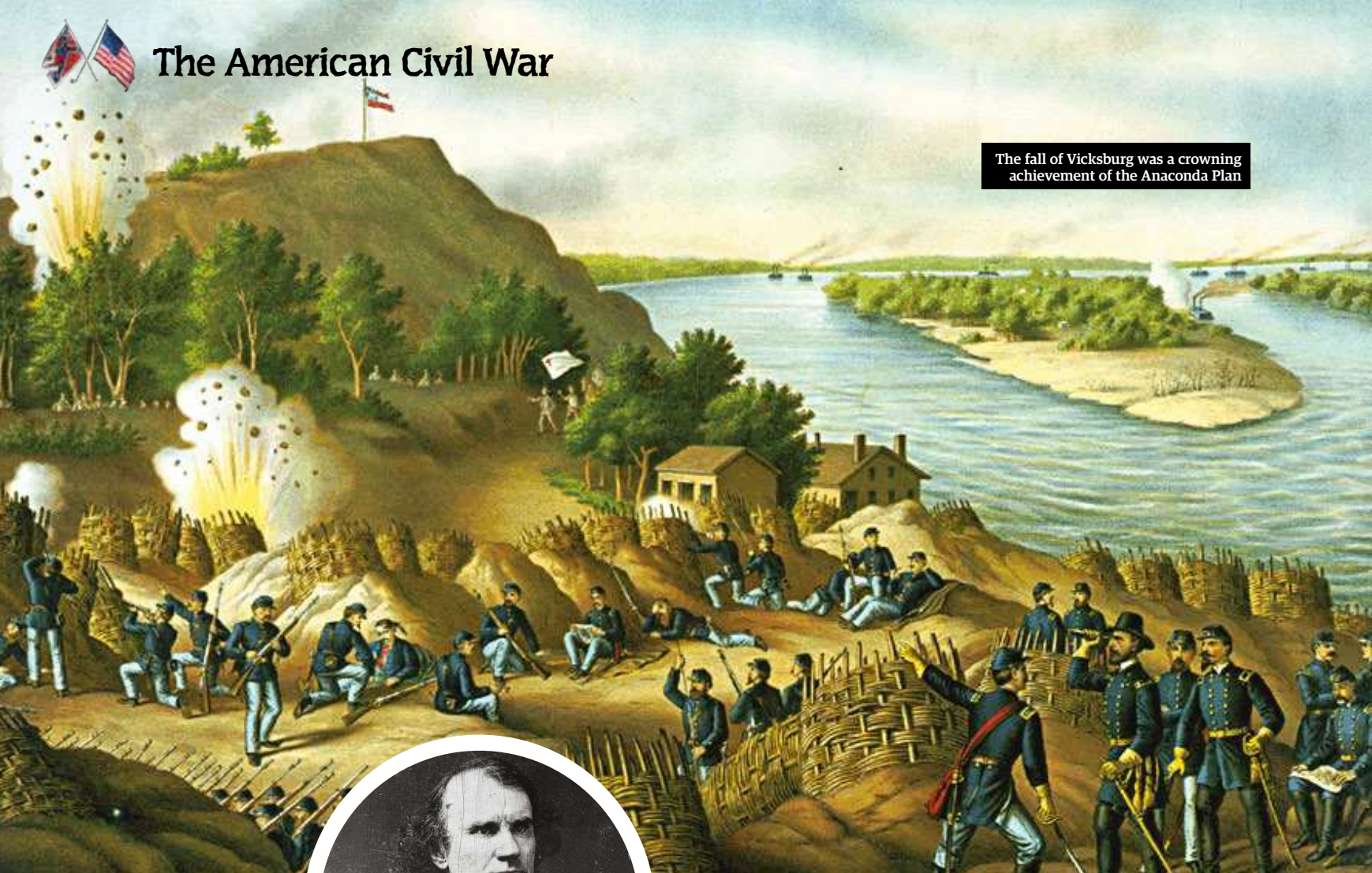


Union Major General Ulysses S Grant captured the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg in July 1863



The American Civil War

The fall of Vicksburg was a crowning achievement of the Anaconda Plan



James Mason, one of the Confederate commissioners seized from the RMS Trent in November 1862

steam warship port could stop Union movement along the river to the Gulf. These positions could also act as crossing points for the Confederates. For the Union, there was therefore no alternative to controlling the entire river. Conquering the entire length of the Mississippi from Cairo, Illinois, south to New Orleans, dominated Union operations in the Western Theater during the war's early years.

After a huge amount of money and many lives had been spent, the entire length of the Mississippi was brought under Union control. A major step towards this came in April 1862 with the capture of the mouth of the river, into the Gulf of Mexico. A Union fleet under the command of Flag Officer David Glasgow Farragut survived the fire of two forts commanding the river's mouth. Farragut defeated a rebel fleet stationed there, and advanced upriver in order to seize the important city of New Orleans.

The mouth of the Mississippi was now in Union hands, but the entire stretch did not come under Northern control until the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863. Vicksburg commanded the river from an extremely powerful position on ground overlooking the water. After a long campaign, General Ulysses S Grant brought the city under siege and forced its surrender.

DIPLOMACY AND UNION VICTORY

The American Civil War was as much a diplomatic struggle as it was a military one. The United States government worked hard to prevent the Confederate States of America from gaining foreign allies. The Union wanted to prevent the possibility that foreign countries could provide weapons and vital supplies to the South.

However, in late 1861, when the Civil War was only a few months old, the Confederacy came very close to gaining a foreign power as an ally, and risked bringing them into the conflict. Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America, had sent two men, James Mason and John Slidell, to act as the South's diplomats in Europe. They desperately wanted Britain to bring an end to the Union's blockade of Southern ports. While the South was unable to export its cotton, particularly to Britain's huge market, it was not able to earn

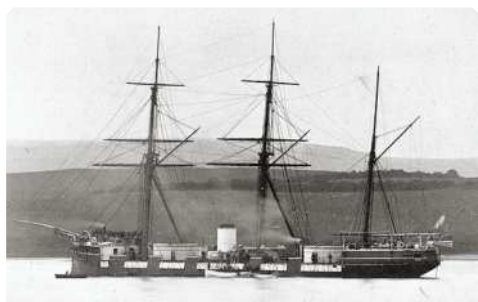
enough money to pay for the costly war. But that wasn't all - the blockade was also seriously harming Britain's textile industry.

Mason and Slidell were travelling across the Atlantic Ocean aboard RMS Trent, a British mail steamer, not far from Cuba, when it was boarded by USS San Jacinto, a United States warship under the command of Captain Charles Wilkes. The captain imprisoned Mason and Slidell, claiming that he was removing them from the neutral ship because they were a 'contraband of war.' Under international law, however, Wilkes' search of a neutral ship and the imprisonment of the men were against international rules. The incident caused angry protests in Britain, and some politicians began talking of war. This would have been disastrous for the North, and would have been fortunate for the South.

The Trent Affair, as it was later called, caused a severe diplomatic crisis for the United States. However, after the incident, Wilkes gained widespread popularity, which caused complications for President Lincoln. The capture of Mason and Slidell from the Trent pleased many Northerners, who wanted the rebellion to be ended. Wilkes was



John Slidell, the second of the Confederate commissioners removed from the RMS Trent in November 1862



A Laird ram, after it had been seized by the British government and commissioned by the Royal Navy

applauded by many citizens who considered him to be a hero. *The New York Times* newspaper even said that the captain deserved a medal.

Southerners were also happy to hear the news, but only because they thought that it would harm Anglo-American relations, and benefit the Southern cause. Jefferson Davis knew that the removal of the diplomats was an insult to Britain. "These gentlemen were as much under the jurisdiction of the British government upon that ship and beneath its flag as if they had been on its soil," he told the Confederate Congress.

Many in Britain agreed with Davis, believing that Wilkes' action had been an insult. When writing its message to Washington about the incident, the British cabinet was uncertain how to respond to the provocation. If they responded too forcefully, Lincoln would have

less opportunity to back down gracefully and save face. If its response was too soft, the United States would not understand how angry the British government was about the boarding of the Trent and the capture of the Confederate commissioners. A soft response would also be a sign of weakness by Britain.

The British cabinet wanted an apology for the stopping of a British ship on the high seas and the removal of Mason and Slidell. The apology was to be delivered within seven days of Washington receiving the letter, or there would be war between Britain and the United States. The task of writing the letter was given to Lord John Russell, Britain's foreign secretary. His letter pleased no one, so the cabinet next decided that two separate letters should be sent to Washington. One would express disapproval for the boarding of the Trent, while the other would demand an apology and threaten war if it was not forthcoming.

The British cabinet could not come to an agreement on either of the two letters, which though they were still incomplete, were sent to Queen Victoria and also to Prince Albert, who was stricken with typhoid fever and near to death. Through his influence, Albert was able to soften the harshness of the planned letters. The prince advised that the letter should include the hope that Captain Wilkes had not acted under orders from the United States government. This suggestion gave the Lincoln government a chance to save potential embarrassment, because

this excuse would place the blame for the incident with Wilkes, not the president.

Russell made it clear to the British ambassador in the United States, Lord Richard Lyons, that the prisoners would have to be released. Nothing, not even an apology for their imprisonment, would be acceptable if this one condition was not met.

While the British cabinet waited for a response to their letter, there was the real possibility that war could break out with the United States. There was also a real fear that the US Army might invade Canada, should war erupt. To prevent this happening, approximately 11,000 British troops were sent to Canada in December 1861.

Likewise, the United States could not afford starting another war. The war scare had made it impossible for the US government to sell bonds to pay for the current war with the South. Even worse, the Royal Navy was the most powerful fleet in the world. If war came, it would quickly bring about an end to the blockade, and the secession of the South would succeed.

Lincoln saw that war with the United Kingdom would be a mistake, and his secretary of state, William Seward, wrote a letter in answer. The response was delivered to Lyons on 27 December 1861. Seward placed the blame for the Trent affair squarely on Wilkes, saying that the captain was wrong in not seeking out a prize court to adjudicate the capture. Mason and Slidell were released, and on 1 January 1862, they sailed to Britain aboard a Royal Navy warship.

A costly and unnecessary war had been averted because Lincoln, showing true strategic sense, had grasped that the true aim of the war. Bringing the rebellious Southern states back into the Union would only be possibly by remaining at peace with the United Kingdom.

★★★
"Lincoln saw that war with the United Kingdom would be a mistake"

THE LAIRD RAMS

How the Confederates tried to build their ships in Britain

Anglo-American friendship was troubled over the course of the war. The Union blockade was stopping the shipment of Southern cotton to Britain, which contributed to unemployment among textile factory workers. With the Confederacy unable to build warships of its own, it looked to other countries to find firms to construct their ships. Britain, with its massive and modern shipbuilding industry, was an obvious place to seek out builders. Southern purchasing agent James Bulloch asked the Liverpool company Laird & Co to build two steam-powered, ironclad rams - ships with bows strengthened to deliver devastating ramming attacks - for the Confederate fleet.

However, it did not take very long for the American ambassador to Britain, Charles Francis Adams, the son and grandson of former US presidents, to learn of the Confederate order. He quickly protested to the British government

that this ship building was a violation of Britain's neutral status in the civil war. On 5 September 1862, Adams made it clear that, should the British government fail to act, there would be war between the United States and Britain. Matters had changed since late 1861 when the Lincoln government had backed down in the wake of the Trent affair. The Union fleet was now much more powerful, and Britain's merchant ships would have been subject to attack if war should come. Canada was also still extremely vulnerable to an American invasion. On 8 September, the British government ordered Laird to cease all construction work on the Confederate rams.

In June 1863, the tireless Bulloch found another buyer for the rams, who could disguise their true destination. Once purchased, the ships were then to be steamed out to sea and handed over to Confederate sailors. The



Adams prevented the South from taking possession of the Laird rams

watchful Adams learned of the deceit and once again foiled the Confederate plan with another timely protest to the British government. The two rams were impounded in October 1863, and by 1864 were taken into service by the Royal Navy. The French banks backing the purchase were then compensated.

Images source: Wiki



African-Americans and the Civil War

Black soldiers fought in 450 battles during the Civil War, while struggling against prejudice and racism from both sides

Words by **Will Lawrence**



From the beginning of the war, the Union navy had welcomed men of all colours and creeds. Black sailors often served as cooks and stewards, firefighters and haulers of coal. But this was not the limit of their efforts. In 1861, the USS Minnesota assigned a group of freed slaves to serve as a gun crew, while in May 1862 a South Carolina slave by the name of Robert Smalls took charge of a messenger boat in Charleston Harbour and sailed it out to the Union's blockading fleet. He was eventually appointed a pilot in the US Navy.

At that time, however, Pilot Robert Smalls could not serve in the army. The notion of black troops fighting the South on land had been suggested since the outbreak of the war. Yet most considered the conflict to be a 'white man's war', and the war department refused to consider any black troops for the arm, even though they marched in their hundreds to Union recruitment offices, eager to volunteer.

Black troops had fought in the Revolution, and the war of 1812, but prejudice was still rife

across America. Black soldiers had been banned from state militias since 1792, and the regular army had never permitted them. All across the Northern states, black people were still regarded with suspicion and contempt, especially among society's poorer classes.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1 January 1863, which authorised the arming of freed slaves, was unpopular on both sides. The vast majority of Northern troops believed they were fighting to save the Union, not to free the Southern slaves. Even Lincoln's proclamation imagined a limited role for black troops: "To garrison

forts, positions, stations and other places." Indeed, in the words of a leading war historian, "One of the first battles these black troops had to fight was for a chance to prove themselves in combat."

Yet even before Lincoln's

proclamation, five regiments of free black soldiers had been organised in Louisiana, Kansas and South Carolina, with the 1st South Carolina Volunteers officially authorised by the War Department. The Kansans saw action in a Missouri skirmish during October 1862, and ten of them fell as the first black combat casualties of the war.

Around 179,000 black soldiers fought in the Union Army, and a further 19,000 served in the Navy



Men of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry regiment at the Second Battle of Fort Wagner, 18 July 1863





★★★ “The Union war department initially refused to consider black troops, even though many were eager to volunteer”

In January 1863, the 1st South Carolina Volunteers saw action during a raid along St Mary's river between Florida and Georgia, causing their commander, Colonel Higginson, to write, “No officer in this regiment now doubts that the key to the successful prosecution of the war lies in the unlimited employment of black troops.” The pilot of one of the ships used in the raid was Robert Smalls.

Lincoln's thoughts on the use of black soldiers soon changed and as early as March 1863 he was writing that the sight of “50,000 armed and drilled black soldiers on the banks of the Mississippi would end the rebellion at once”.

When called upon for their first major battle, black soldiers more than proved their worth. The action began at Port Hudson on the morning of 27 May 1863. Two Union regiments of black fighters from Louisiana launched three charges on Confederate lines. They suffered terribly, with 37 dead and 155 wounded, but earned respect.

They fared even better at the nearby battle at Milliken's Bend. Here Texan regiments attacked three black regiments raised by General Lorenzo Thomas, a great believer in black recruitment. The 9th and 11th Louisiana Infantry and the 1st Mississippi fought bravely with their old muskets and, supported by Union gunboats, pushed the Confederates back.

Black troops would continue to serve with honour throughout the war, following up Milliken's Bend with a further show of valour at

Fort Wagner a few weeks later. The Confederacy had built up huge earthworks and the Union's 54th Massachusetts Infantry, described by one historian as “the North's showcase black regiment”, was chosen to storm the defences.

The attack began on the evening of 18 July. The defenders held their fire until the Union men drew close, before opening fire that tore into the attacking troops. The 54th suffered the heaviest casualties, losing almost half of its number, including its leader, Colonel Robert Shaw, who was shot in the heart.

The 54th held Wagner's parapet for an hour in the darkness before a Confederate counter-attack pushed them back. They had fought so ferociously that the newspaper *Atlantic Monthly* declared that Fort Wagner was for “the coloured race as Bunker Hill had been for 90 years to the white Yankees”.

Here, the 54th's Sergeant William H Carney won the first Medal of Honor ever granted to a black soldier. When the Union soldiers asked for the return of Colonel Shaw's body, however, the Confederates replied that they had thrown him in a pit, unmarked, with his troops. The rebels despised these officers as much as they did their black troops. Shaw's father later said he was proud for his son to lie in rest with such brave troops.

This regiment, despite losses pushing 300 killed, captured or wounded, were later brought into a small army of white and black troops, under the command of General Quincy Gillmore, which

was charged with retaking Florida. They were defeated at Olustee, with Confederates showing little mercy to the black troops. The medical officer of the 8th US Colored Troops saved many men by evacuating black troops before white from the battlefield, knowing that the white troops would be better treated in captivity.

Captured black troops also suffered at Confederate hands in the wake of their defeat at Fort Pillow. Here, General Nathan Bedford Forrest's troops shot black prisoners, as well as some white. This became known as the Fort Pillow Massacre. The Union went after Forrest but suffered another defeat, the heaviest in the Western theatre, when a force half the size of the Union's 8,000 men won a victory at Brice's Cross Roads on 10 June 1864. Again, black troops suffered heavy losses, and many blamed their superior officers for the defeat.

Poor leadership also harmed the efforts of black troops in what many consider to be their most celebrated action of the war, the Battle of the Crater. This was a battle that at first seemed a genius plan, but on the day turned into a tragic disaster. During the 1864 Siege of Petersburg, on 30 July, Union troops detonated a store of explosives beneath the Confederate defences. The explosion blew open a large gap in their line.

At first, troops from the black Ninth Corps were chosen to lead the charge into the gap, but General Grant then approved a white unit to act as the first unit to charge. This division was not prepared for the attack, so hesitated. By the time the black troops entered the position, the Confederates had launched a sizeable counter-attack and claimed the lives of 3,500 Ninth Corps soldiers. The black soldiers again fought valiantly in defeat and seven received the Medal of Honor.

Though the Battle of the Crater, as it was later called, was a costly disaster, the Union and its black troops were eventually able to



Black Union soldiers resting at Aitken's Landing, James River, Virginia, in 1864

take Petersburg and they finally occupied Charleston, too, in February 1845. However, their greatest triumph came a few months later when soldiers from the 9th Regiment US Colored Troops led the march into Richmond, the rebel capital, in early April. In the course of the following month, the 62nd US Colored Troops fought the final battle of the war, at Palmito Ranch, Texas.

By 1865, the Union army was almost ten per cent black, though the units remained almost entirely separate from their white comrades. In addition, black troops were still under the command of white officers. Among 166 black regiments, fewer than 100 featured black officers, none of whom ranked above captain. In all, nearly 180,000 fought for the Union army and though they did not engage in many of the greatest battles - most of which began before their enlistment - in the words of one leading historian, "Psychologically, the commitment of black soldiers enormously enhanced the Northern war effort."

BLACK TROOPS & THE CONFEDERACY

Surprisingly, the first black troops to march in the war had volunteered for the Confederacy

Louisiana was the single Southern state with something approaching a free black population. In May 1861 a group of men grouped together to form a volunteer militia unit, naming themselves the Regiment of Free Men of Color. The volunteers wanted to express their devotion to, and willingness to serve, their state in the war.

However, while the state governor announced his gratitude by appointing a white colonel to command them, they were not officially recognised by the Confederate government, and had to supply their own weapons and uniforms. There is no evidence that the regiment ever actually fired in anger in combat with Union troops.

The regiment was disbanded and reformed several times before being disbanded for good by General John L Lewis of the Louisiana Militia on 25 April 1862, as federal ships arrived opposite the city.

Elsewhere, slaves were employed by the Confederacy as a labour force, with plantation owners offered money for any that were taken into work gangs. Though this proved highly unpopular, because slaves were valuable to the plantation owners, many slaves were recruited for the war effort. Many deserted and, once captured by Union forces, they were not returned to their owners.

Once defeat seemed inevitable, the Confederacy debated whether or not to recruit slaves. General Robert E Lee eventually agreed that the only way of finding the manpower to sustain the war was to enlist black soldiers into the Confederate Army. By March of 1865, the Confederate Congress ruled that owners make 25 per cent of their slaves available for military service. Two companies of black soldiers were gathered but the final Union victory rescued them from combat.

The Regiment of Free Men of Color were at their post when federal ships arrived opposite New Orleans, 25 April 1862







The Battle of New Orleans

In 1862, a Union fleet reached the mouth of the great Mississippi River, where the Union 'Anaconda Plan' could tighten its grip

Words by **Marc DeSantis**

Stretching some 3,734 kilometres (2,320 miles) north to south, the Mississippi River was extremely important for travel and trade in the Western Theater. If the Union could gain control of the river, it would cut the rebellious western states of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas from the east. However this was no easy task, because from the start of the war the Union had no strong navy on the river. Also, in order to open the river to the Union, stop the Confederates travelling across it and enforce a blockade, the entire length of the Mississippi would have to be controlled. This would not only require hundreds of ships but also forts and land forces.

The weakest point of the Union naval blockade was at the Mississippi's mouth, ending at the Gulf of Mexico. With so many waterways, this area was almost impossible to guard and control a blockade. Near New Orleans, the river split into four channels, spreading out 50 kilometres (30 miles) from one side to the other once it reached Gulf waters. Around 24 kilometres (15 miles) up from the Gulf entrance, the channels connected at a place called the Head of Passes. Here the rebels held several forts: Fort Jackson, on the western bank, and Fort St Philip, positioned on the eastern bank.

The Confederates could not allow the Union to take control of the river without a fight, and

so started building their own river fleet. Early in the conflict the Union tried to cut traffic through the river by taking a squadron of ships inside the river mouth, up to the Head of Passes. However, on 12 October 1861, the converted ironclad ram CSS Manassas engaged them. Rising only one metre (three feet) above the water, armed with a 32-pound gun and lined with iron spikes, Manassas rammed into the USS Richmond, smashing its hull. The Richmond and USS Vincennes were both put out of action.

Despite the strategic location of New Orleans, Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, had not taken action to defend the city. He believed that the nearby Forts Jackson and St Philip, would be able to stop any Union ships attempting to move up the river. Most of the city's defences were instead pointed to the north - the direction any Union offensive was expected to arrive. This left the city weaker to the south. While Forts Jackson and St Philip were strong defences, if a Union fleet could find a way past them, New Orleans would be unable to stop a Federal attack.

Confederate trade along the river could only be totally stopped by taking New Orleans, so Union generals made plans to attack the city from the south. In August 1861, US Navy ships successfully attacked Forts Clark and Hatteras on the coast of North Carolina. In November 1861, ships had forced the surrender of Forts Walker

The Union screw sloop USS Hartford, battles her way past Fort Jackson as it presses up the Mississippi River, 24 April 1862

Image source: Alamy, Getty Images



and Beauregard, which had been protecting Port Royal, South Carolina.

US Navy Commander David Dixon Porter created the Union plan for capturing New Orleans. While commanding the blockade of the southern end of the Mississippi River, Porter had spoken with local fishermen and had scouted the region. His information led him to believe that New Orleans could fall to a Union naval assault.

Porter's plan called for an attack on Forts Jackson and St Philip by a flotilla of 21 ships carrying 13-inch mortars. These guns were able to fire explosive shells high enough to clear the walls of the forts. Accompanying warships would then speed past the embattled forts, towards New Orleans. Soldiers from the US Army could then land and occupy the city.

ENTER DAVID FARRAGUT

With the plan of attack against New Orleans settled, command of the operation was given to Flag Officer David Glasgow Farragut. Although he was a Southerner, Farragut was against the secession of the Southern states and had remained loyal to the United States.

The squadron of ships tasked with blocking the Southern coastline along the Gulf of Mexico

was separated in two; one operating in the western portion of the coastline, the other in the east. Farragut would have direct control of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron, aboard his flagship the steam-powered USS Hartford. To keep the true target of his operation secret, rumours were deliberately put out that the squadron was headed for Texas, or Alabama.

CONFEDERATE DISORDER

The Confederate defenders of New Orleans were poorly prepared for the coming attack. The city was held by Major General Mansfield Lovell, but its more distant defences, such as Forts Jackson and St Philip, were under the command of another officer, Major General Johnson Kelly Duncan. Lovell believed that the Confederate government was unaware of the "real situation at New Orleans" and predicted a disaster if the Northerners decided to attack.

The Confederate ships ordered to guard New Orleans were highly disorganised and split between three different commanders. The Confederate Navy controlled ironclads CSS Manassas and CSS Louisiana, along with the steam gunboats CSS Jackson and CSS McRae,

Above: An overhead plan of Fort Jackson showing the damage that the Union cannon had inflicted from 18 April to 24 April 1862

and a few tugboats. However, the Louisiana State Navy was in control of Governor Moore and General Quitman, both cotton-clad ram ships. Six further warships - Defiance, Warrior, Resolute, General Breckenridge, General Lovell and Stonewall Jackson - were part of the Confederate Army's River Defense Fleet.

Neither the Louisiana State Navy or the River Defense Fleet were willing to accept orders from the Confederate Navy. This made it almost impossible for the three groups of ships to work together in defence of New Orleans. In addition, the Confederate forces expected Federal river forces to attack from the north, so they failed to properly focus on defences in the south.

ON TO NEW ORLEANS

Farragut arrived at Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico on 20 February, where he joined 18,000 US Army soldiers under the command of

★★★
"Only by holding New Orleans could Southern commercial traffic be stopped"

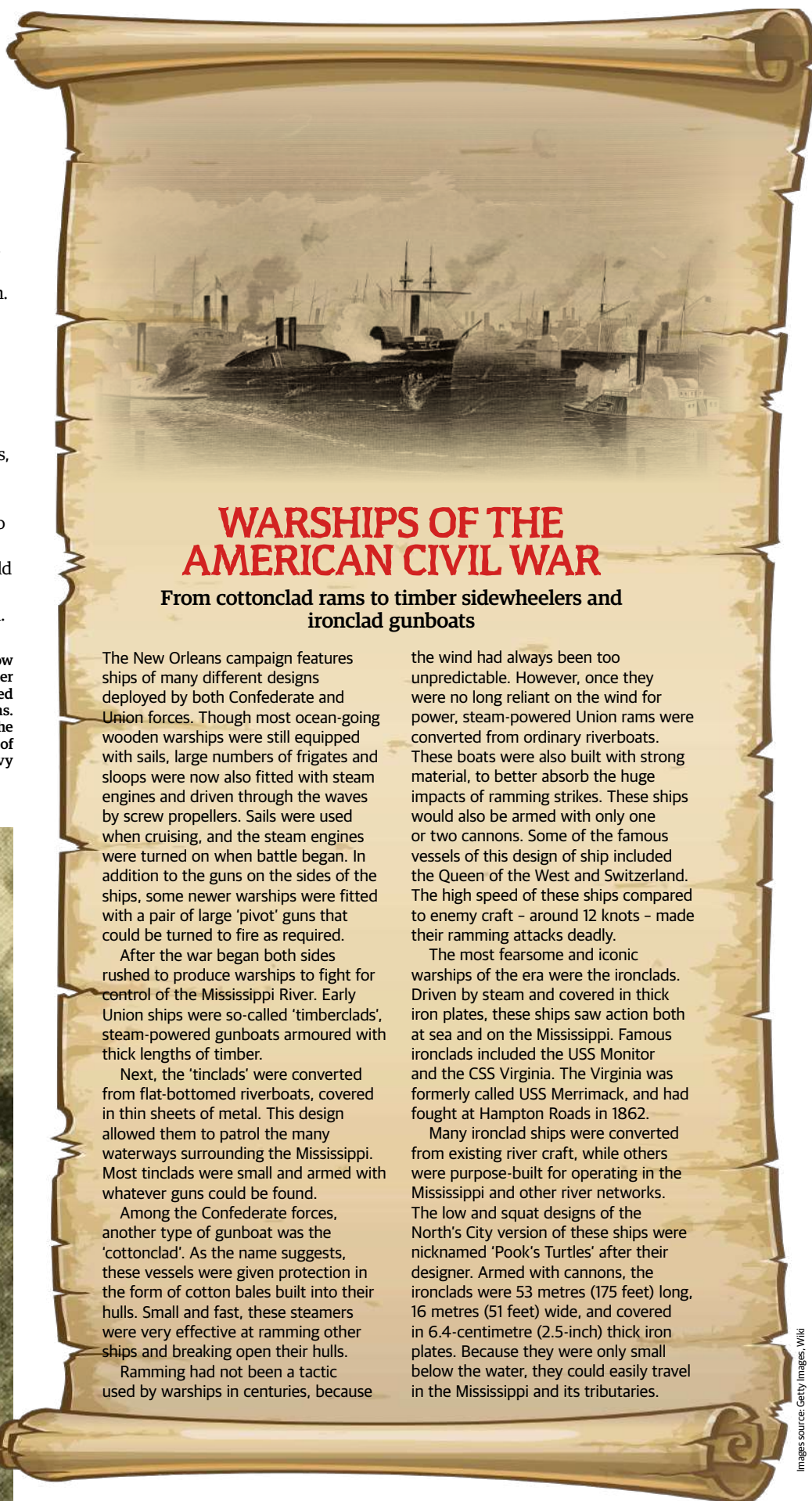


The deck of Farragut's flagship USS Hartford. The capture of New Orleans was a great achievement in Farragut's career, which until that moment had been solid if somewhat uneventful

Major General Benjamin F. Butler. These were the troops that would be ordered to capture the city. In addition to Hartford, Farragut had command of USS Brooklyn, USS Pensacola and USS Richmond. These were joined by the steam frigate USS Colorado, the steam ships USS Iroquois and USS Oneida, the ancient frigate USS Mississippi and the converted steamer USS Varuna. With these larger units were 11 steam gunboats and a number of other smaller vessels. He was met by Porter, who was in command of several mortar boat ships at Ship Island in March.

News soon reached Farragut that Forts Henry and Donelson had been captured by Union troops, and that Union river gunboats were advancing south down the river. He also learned that the Southerners were building two large ironclads, (Louisiana and Mississippi) on the river and that these would be deadly to the wooden ships in his own fleet. He decided it would be wise to move before these ironclads became operational.

Left: Flag Officer David Glasgow Farragut was overall commander of the Union fleet that attacked and captured New Orleans. He became the first admiral of the US Navy



WARSHIPS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

From cottonclad rams to timber sidewheelers and ironclad gunboats

The New Orleans campaign features ships of many different designs deployed by both Confederate and Union forces. Though most ocean-going wooden warships were still equipped with sails, large numbers of frigates and sloops were now also fitted with steam engines and driven through the waves by screw propellers. Sails were used when cruising, and the steam engines were turned on when battle began. In addition to the guns on the sides of the ships, some newer warships were fitted with a pair of large 'pivot' guns that could be turned to fire as required.

After the war began both sides rushed to produce warships to fight for control of the Mississippi River. Early Union ships were so-called 'timberclads', steam-powered gunboats armoured with thick lengths of timber.

Next, the 'tinclads' were converted from flat-bottomed riverboats, covered in thin sheets of metal. This design allowed them to patrol the many waterways surrounding the Mississippi. Most tinclads were small and armed with whatever guns could be found.

Among the Confederate forces, another type of gunboat was the 'cottonclad'. As the name suggests, these vessels were given protection in the form of cotton bales built into their hulls. Small and fast, these steamers were very effective at ramming other ships and breaking open their hulls.

Ramming had not been a tactic used by warships in centuries, because

the wind had always been too unpredictable. However, once they were no longer reliant on the wind for power, steam-powered Union rams were converted from ordinary riverboats. These boats were also built with strong material, to better absorb the huge impacts of ramming strikes. These ships would also be armed with only one or two cannons. Some of the famous vessels of this design of ship included the Queen of the West and Switzerland. The high speed of these ships compared to enemy craft - around 12 knots - made their ramming attacks deadly.

The most fearsome and iconic warships of the era were the ironclads. Driven by steam and covered in thick iron plates, these ships saw action both at sea and on the Mississippi. Famous ironclads included the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia. The Virginia was formerly called USS Merrimack, and had fought at Hampton Roads in 1862.

Many ironclad ships were converted from existing river craft, while others were purpose-built for operating in the Mississippi and other river networks. The low and squat designs of the North's City version of these ships were nicknamed 'Pook's Turtles' after their designer. Armed with cannons, the ironclads were 53 metres (175 feet) long, 16 metres (51 feet) wide, and covered in 6.4-centimetre (2.5-inch) thick iron plates. Because they were only small below the water, they could easily travel in the Mississippi and its tributaries.



On 7 March, Farragut began moving his ships over the shallows, which was a difficult task. Tug boats were needed to pull many of the ships over sand dunes hidden beneath the surface. The mortar ships and gunboats got through the Pass à l'Outre without too much fuss, but the bigger ships could not manage the journey. Farragut tried an alternative route, and the ships Hartford, Brooklyn and Richmond made it over relatively easily. USS Pensacola and USS Mississippi were also eventually able to make the crossing, but only after 11 days spent painstakingly dragging the warships across the shallows. The giant frigate USS Colorado was so large that it could not be yanked across the shallows, no matter how much weight was removed from it. Farragut decided to strip the ship of its guns, as well as its most experienced sailors, and stationed it nearby as a reserve ship. It was not until 8 April that the fleet was fully across the shallows.

On 13 April a small tug boat, Sachem, moved north to scout out the Confederate positions on the river. It returned later with precise ranges for Porter and his mortar boats to use. Now the attack on the fortifications could finally begin. The boats armed with mortars, led by Porter in Harriet Lane, pushed up the 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the Head of Passes to the forts. Starting on 18 April, the mortars began lobbing shells against Fort Jackson and Fort St Philip, with each vessel firing a 13-inch shell into the air every ten minutes.

The aim of the mortars was largely accurate, thanks to the skill of the mortar-men and the information provided by Sachem. The shots that the forts fired back were mostly inaccurate. This bombardment continued for ten hours, and at the end, Fort Jackson was on fire. The attack ceased with the coming of night, and then resumed the next morning, but this time with one shell being fired every 30 minutes. Porter's ammunition stocks were now running low. He realised that his original estimate of 48 hours to destroy both forts had been highly optimistic.

In preparation for the general assault, Farragut removed from his ships every piece of equipment that was not needed. Even their masts were reduced so that they could carry only the most vital number of sails. His crews painted the sides of their ships with mud to make them less visible in the hours of darkness, and their decks were painted white to make their weapons easier to see at night. The crews also hung heavy anchor chains around the outside of the hulls, to act as a kind of armour to protect the boilers behind them. "The day is at hand," Farragut told his men drily, "when you will be called upon to meet the enemy in the worst form of our profession."

By this time, the Confederates were certain that Farragut and his men were on their way, and quickly set about improving their defences to stop him. Across the Mississippi they chained eight small boats in a row, with their masts removed, to form a barrier or 'hulk line'. On the

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

BAY

MARSH

07 Manassas Strikes Again... and Again

Brooklyn makes it upriver past Fort St Philip but is attacked and rammed by CSS Manassas. Fortunately, the chain mail armour hanging over its side prevents crippling damage and it leaves Manassas behind it. After a brief pause, Manassas returns to the fight further upriver, but is run off by USS Mississippi, which hammers the pesky Confederate ram with gunfire. Manassas grounds ashore and is set on fire by its commander.

08 On to New Orleans

With the bulk of his fleet past the line of the forts, Farragut heads further up the Mississippi towards New Orleans, which he reaches the next day. The city is undefended. Forts Jackson and St Philip surrender two days later.

06 Blue Division

Aboard Hartford, Farragut pushes upriver. Brooklyn is caught in the remains of the hulk line and is struck by heavy Confederate gunfire. The Confederate tug Mosher is destroyed by Hartford, but not before it places a blazing fire raft against the Union flagship. Farragut's men fight the fire and soon Hartford is past the forts.

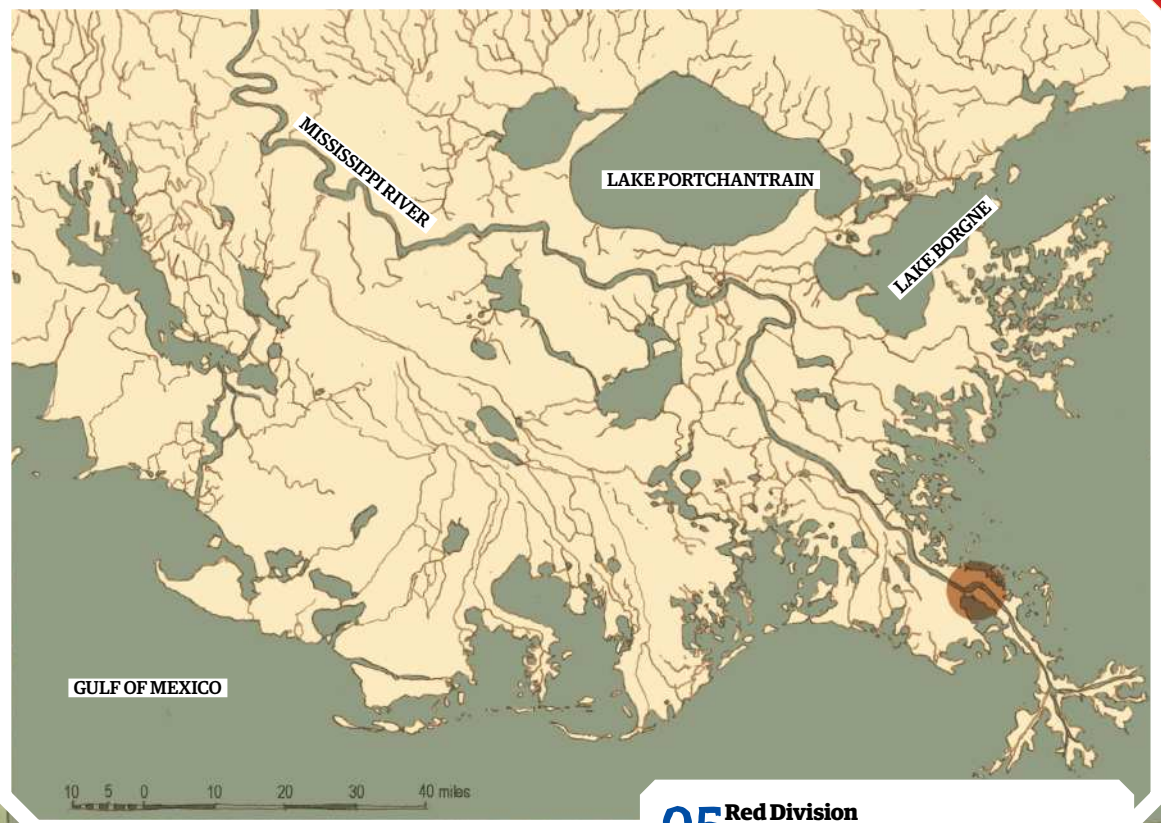
A. BARGES
B. McRAE
C. LOUISIANA
D. FIRE BARGES
E. MANASSAS
F. SCHOONER RAFT



BAY

04 Hulk Line

Across the broad Mississippi River, the Confederate defenders have chained together eight small vessels, with their masts removed, to prevent the Union fleet from getting upriver. Before the Union fleet can advance, a team of Federal seamen hacks apart the chains that bind the ships together. Flaming rafts are launched by the Confederates at night, but they do not stop the Federal ships from advancing.



05 Red Division

Farragut signals a general advance by the ships in his fleet. Cayuga takes the lead and is hit hard. Pensacola veers off course. Oneida rams an enemy ship and then takes up position, firing at targets of opportunity. Varuna knocks out four Confederate ships before it is rammed by Governor Moore. It duels furiously with Governor Moore, is rammed by CSS Stonewall Jackson, and then reduces Jackson to a flaming wreck with cannon fire. Both Varuna and Governor Moore are forced ashore by sustained battle damage. USS Mississippi is rammed by CSS Manassas.

FORT ST. PHILIP

FORT JACKSON

EXTREME RANGE OF FORT FIRE

UNION MORTAR FLEET

MARSH

CONFEDERATE RIVER FLEET

03 The Rebel Navy Waits

Union fleet commander David Glasgow Farragut realises that he can't wait for the mortar ships to force the surrender of the forts. He decides he must run the gauntlet past them so that he can continue on to New Orleans. Waiting for him, just upriver of the forts, is a disorganised but dangerous collection of Confederate warships, including Manassas, Stonewall Jackson and the incomplete ironclad, Louisiana.

01 Fort Jackson and Fort St Philip

Neither Jackson nor St Philip can be considered modern forts. Fort Jackson has been sinking into the mud of the Mississippi Delta for some time and is often flooded, which requires constant pumping to keep its ammunition dry. St Philip is no better, and is an old fort originally built by the Spanish. Its guns are unprotected and vulnerable to the Union mortar bombs falling from above. Most of the guns in both forts are also outdated, being old-fashioned 32 pounders with short ranges.

02 Bombardment Begins

21 mortar boats under Commander David Dixon Porter begin the bombardment of Fort Jackson. They pound the fort with close to 3,000 13-inch shells on the first day alone, and continue the attack for the next few nights. Though much damage is done, Fort Jackson does not succumb.



"The Union bombardment continued for ten hours... Fort Jackson was ablaze"

shore they prepared fire rafts to be let loose downstream at the enemy. These flaming boats, they hoped, would set fire to the Union ships.

More Confederate ships had also arrived to join the fight. CSS *Manassas* had come, along with the cottonclad ram CSS *Stonewall Jackson*. The long-awaited ironclad *Louisiana* also made an appearance, after it was towed to a position just to the north of Fort St Philip, outside of the range of Union mortar ships. However, this was not a real threat to the enemy, because its engines and guns were not yet operational.

At night, the Confederates released fire rafts to float down the river into the Union ships. Flames leapt skyward as the rafts, piled with flammable materials, drifted down the Mississippi. Farragut, however, had predicted this tactic. The rafts were easily caught by many of the smaller boats under his command and pushed to the river's banks, where they burned away without threatening the Union vessels.

However, there was still the obstacle of the hulk line chained across the river. These were hacked apart by a daring team of Union seamen

in three gunboats, while under heavy enemy fire. With the line severed, the Confederates towed *Louisiana* further downstream, anchoring it closer to Fort St Philip. This decision to hold it back upstream was not welcomed by all. The forts' commander, General Duncan, asked the Confederate Navy commander, John K. Mitchell, to move *Louisiana* even further south, past the forts to the destroyed hulk line, where he thought it would be of more use. However, Mitchell declined, because he believed that if he moved the ship that far downriver, no further work could be carried out on the ship.

Other commanders in the Confederate defences were also unhappy with the plan for defending the forts. Even at this desperate moment, the Confederate Army's River Defense Fleet still refused to accept orders from Mitchell,

who had now taken command of the Louisiana State Navy ships, as well as those belonging to the Confederate Navy. The army men would still fight, but only at their own direction, and they turned down a request to bring their cottonclad rams down to the hulk line to do battle where they were badly needed.

The battering from the mortar boats continued for several more days, with no sign that Fort Jackson was ready to quit. Farragut decided that he would have to chance a run past the forts even though they had not been put out of action. At 2.00am on the morning of 24 April, the mortar barrage slowed and a pair of red lanterns on USS *Hartford*'s mast gleamed - this was the sign that the Union fleet was to steam forwards. At the front was Red division under Captain Theodoros Bailey in the gunboat *Cayuga*. In this division was *Pensacola*, *Mississippi*, *Oneida*, *Varuna*, *Katahdin*, *Kineo* and *Wissahickon*, who led the slow advance in the darkness. Behind them came the Blue division. In this group was the *Hartford*, *Brooklyn* and *Richmond*. Farragut was high above in his flagship's rigging, so he could get a better look at what was going on, all the while shouting orders to his sailors below. He came down, after being begged to do so, only just in time to avoid being hit by a Confederate shell. Taking up the back of the Union formation, in the third division under Chief of Staff Henry Bell, were *Iroquois* and five gunboats.

Ahead, *Cayuga* was hit all along its length by shells from Fort St Philip. It pushed on to engage Confederate warships, setting fire to an enemy vessel and forcing it ashore. *Cayuga*'s companions *Oneida* and *Varuna* moved forward. An enemy ship crossed *Oneida*'s bow, and with every ounce of speed it could muster, *Oneida* rammed it, afterwards firing its guns at any enemy in range.

Varuna, on its own, took out four Confederate ships, and was then engaged by the cottonclad Governor Moore of the Louisiana State Navy. This ship approached *Varuna* from behind and both ships opened up a hellstorm of fire. The Confederate ram came so close to *Varuna* that it could not move its gun enough to fire at the Union craft. Frustrated and desperate to attack, the ship's commander, Lieutenant Beverly Kennon, ordered his gun to fire at *Varuna* through his own ship's hull.

Governor Moore next rammed *Varuna*, and then once again to finish off the vessel. Coming up, CSS *Stonewall Jackson* also rammed *Varuna*. When *Stonewall Jackson* backed off to make another ramming attack, *Varuna* used the breathing space to fill its enemy with five eight-inch shells, and this pounding forced the Confederate ship ashore in flames. But

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

Changes in cannon and ship designs changed the balance of power

The fall of the Hatteras and Port Royal forts to the Union Navy was made much easier by several recent technological developments. Rather than remaining still in the water while attacking land forts, as had been necessary in the age of sail, steam-powered warships could cruise by an enemy position at a distance of more than 1.5 kilometres (one mile), all while firing their guns. They could then withdraw out of range of the shore guns, and turn around to begin firing again. As constantly moving targets, the steam ships were hard for Confederate shore gunners to attack.

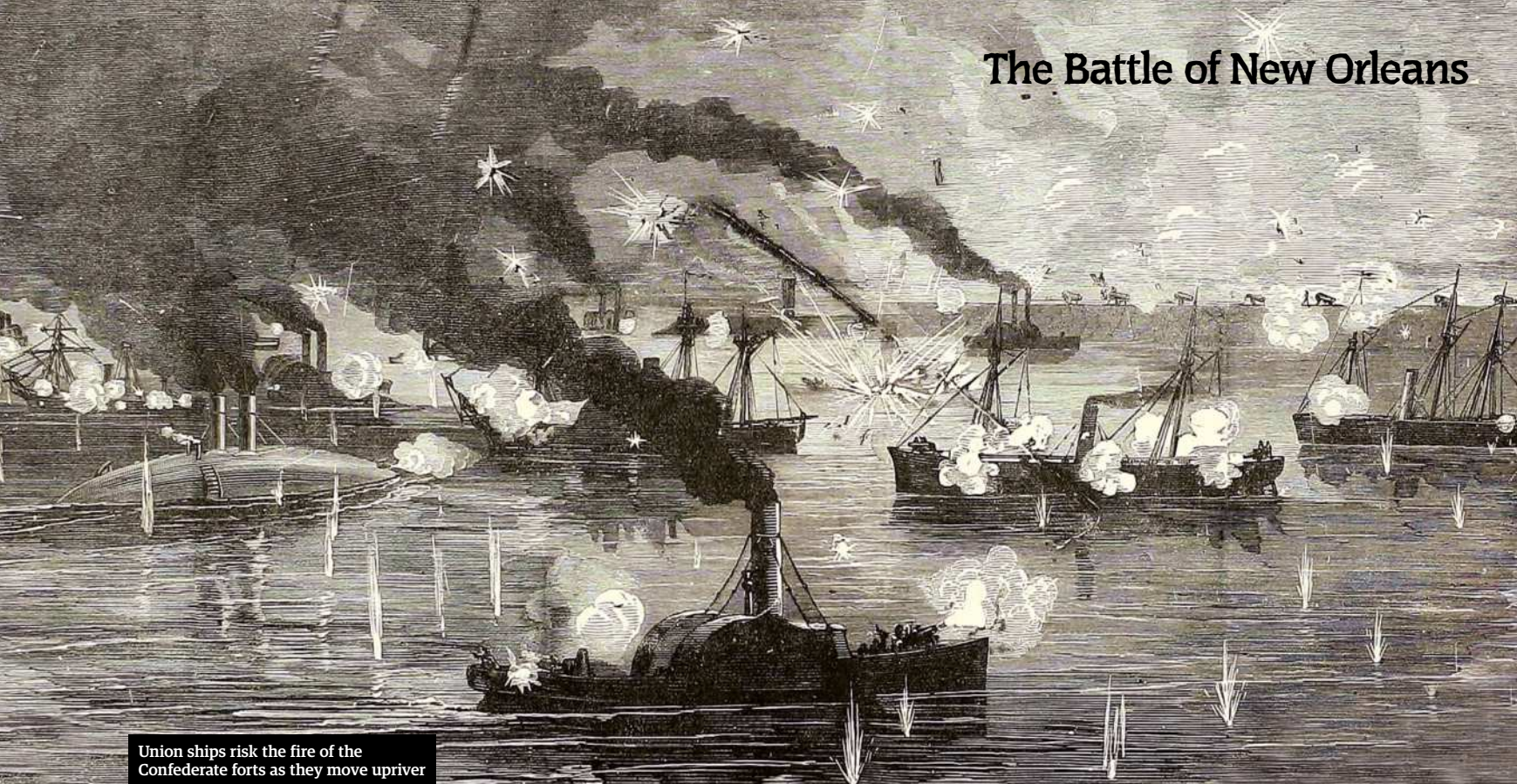
The size of artillery mounted on ships had also increased, as had their range. Dahlgren guns, for example, were enormous guns with extra strength around the chamber. This enabled them to withstand the pressure of huge charges. Artillery had become more

accurate too. Parrot guns were rifled cannons able to shoot over longer distances and with better accuracy than other guns. Rifling was the process of cutting grooves inside the barrel of the gun. This causes the shell to spin as it is fired from the barrel, making it travel further and more accurately.

Once these shells hit their targets, a new design of explosive charges meant that they detonated with huge force. Cannonballs used by warships in the age of sail were solid. This meant that when they smashed into the defences of fortifications, they would typically be absorbed without much trouble. Exploding shells, on the other hand, could tear apart most defensive walls. Altogether, steam engines carrying bigger, more accurate guns and exploding shells, made fleets much more formidable opponents for land fortifications.



A 13-inch mortar of the type used by Commander David Porter's mortar ships to bombard the Confederate forts



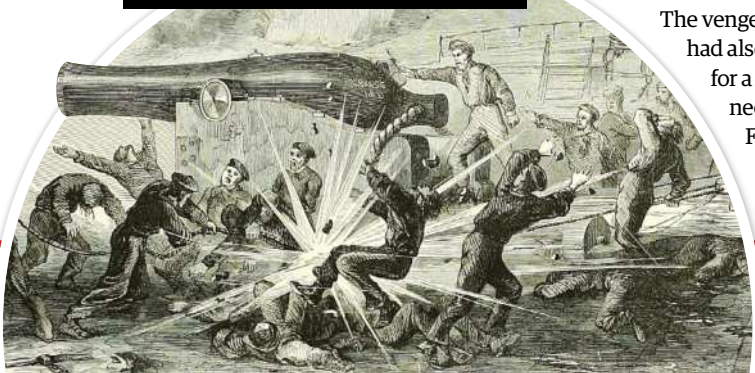
Union ships risk the fire of the Confederate forts as they move upriver

“The vengeful steam frigate Mississippi was looking for a rematch”

Varuna was by now also sinking, and its captain brought it to the safety of the riverbank. Governor Moore, in the meantime, was so badly damaged by the fire from other Union warships that it too was forced to the shore. Kennon set Governor Moore ablaze to keep it out of the enemy's hands.

Elsewhere, Pensacola had gotten lost in the darkness and had drifted close to Fort St Philip before veering off to the western side of the river. The elderly USS Mississippi was behind it, trying to keep up. To one side appeared a low silhouette, shaped like a cigar. It was the infamous ram CSS Manassas, under Lieutenant Alexander Warley, come to join the fight for the passage of the river. He rammed Mississippi, but only managed to land a minor hit. This attack still managed to rip a huge hole in the old ship. The Union vessel shuddered and began to lean to one side as it recovered from the collision, but then quickly corrected itself. Manassas headed off to find another victim.

Fire from Fort Jackson strikes the gunboat Iroquois, causing devastation to the crew. Despite the mortar attacks on the forts, they were still a threat to the Union ships



Back with the Blue division, Brooklyn had become entangled in the broken remnants of the hulk line. The ship finally freed itself, but only after taking heavy fire from the forts. Once past Fort St Philip, Brooklyn met another enemy. Manassas had reappeared, firing its single cannon at Brooklyn and then ramming the Union ship. With its gun ruined in the collision, Warley backed up the Manassas for another strike, but his first attack had done less damage than hoped. The chains hung over the side of Brooklyn had protected it, and it steamed onwards, leaving Manassas behind.

Aboard Hartford, Farragut struggled to guide his ships past the forts, but he could see very little in the thick smoke that hung over the battle. At around 4.15am, a Confederate tug, Mosher, had nudged a fire raft against Hartford's portside hull. Hartford's guns annihilated the little boat, but the flagship was now itself on fire. The ship's crew worked furiously to fight the blaze, and the ship continued to move ahead. Farragut noticed that Confederate fire had begun to slow. Hartford was, at last, past the forts, but was not altogether safe. Lieutenant Warley in Manassas had found them.

The vengeful steam frigate Mississippi, which had also made it past the forts, was looking for a rematch, but its captain felt the need to ask for permission to attack. Farragut, once again positioned high up in the rigging of Hartford,

shouted the order to attack through a trumpet. “Run down the ram!”

Mississippi fired its guns twice at Manassas, which had been so damaged in its earlier battles that it could hardly keep up the fight. Warley grounded his ship on the riverbank, got his crew off, and set his ship on fire, even as the pursuing Mississippi continued to attack its hull with volleys of cannon fire.

Almost all of Farragut's ships managed to find a way past the forts, which quit their own firing at about 5.30am. His fleet arrived at the defenceless New Orleans the next day, on 25 April. The forts held out for another two days, under bombardment by the mortar ships, until they too surrendered on 27 April. By 1 May, Butler's US Army troops had come up and had begun the occupation of the city. Commander Mitchell set CSS Louisiana on fire and cast it adrift, with five tons of powder aboard, allowing it to float down the river. It drifted past just as General Duncan was signing surrender terms with Porter. Having never been used to full effect in combat, the half-built ironclad blew up on the water.

AFTERMATH

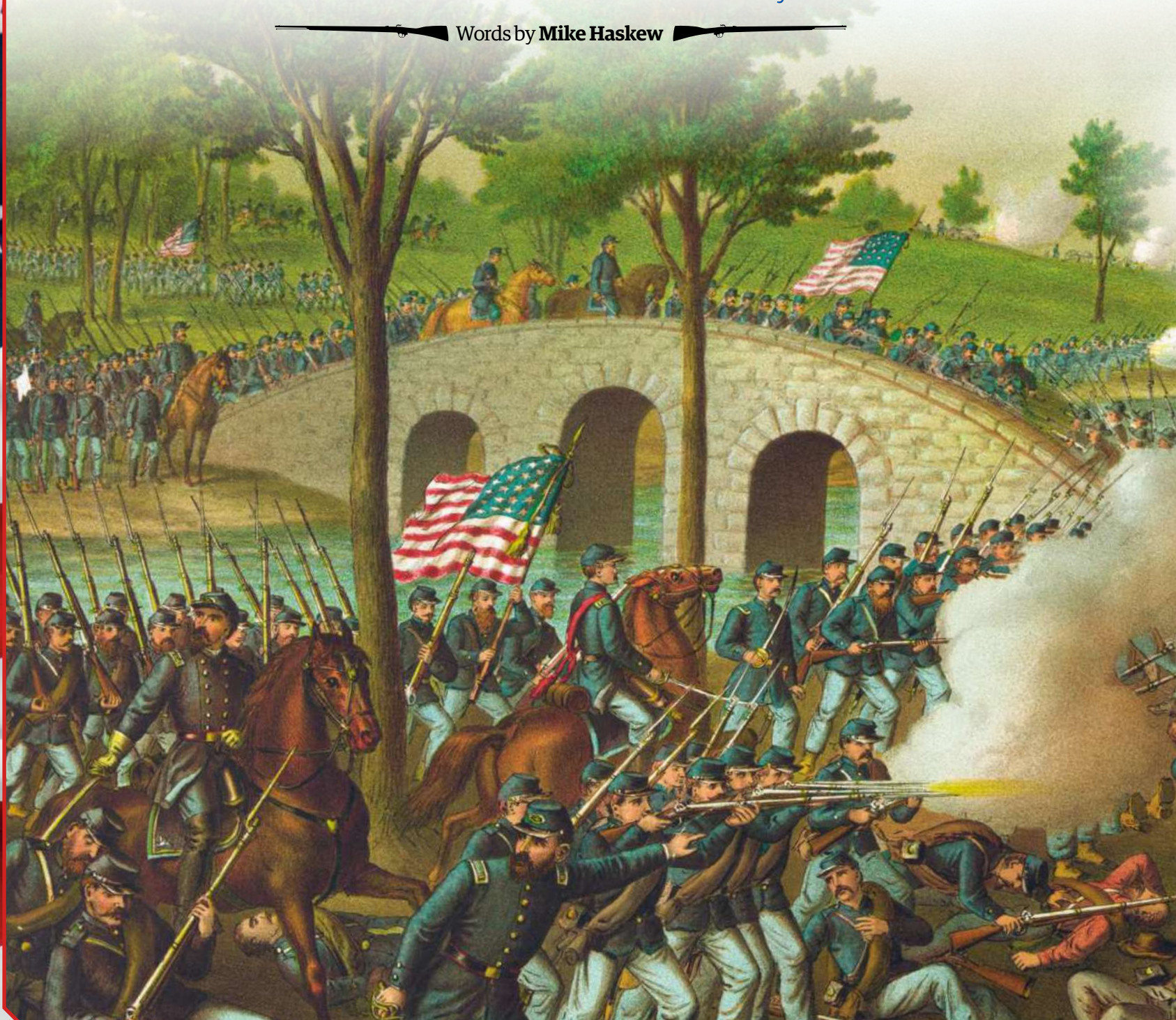
One historian of the American Civil War has gone so far as to say that the fall of New Orleans was “the night the war was lost”. Even if this is slightly exaggerated, the capture of the South's biggest port was surely an awful loss to the Confederate cause. The flow of trade and travel out of the Mississippi River was now completely in Northern hands. The capture of the city of Vicksburg the next year, in July 1863, finally confirmed that the Union was in full control of the Mississippi. With it, the Confederate States of America had been cut in half.



Antietam: The Bloodiest Day

Robert E Lee's first invasion of the North ended with a bloody defeat on the banks of a small creek in western Maryland

Words by **Mike Haskew**





n the summer of 1862, the Confederacy had reasons to be optimistic. Virginia was virtually free of Union soldiers for the first time since the war had begun.

At the Battle of Second Bull Run, in August, Generals Robert E Lee and Thomas J 'Stonewall' Jackson had delivered an embarrassing defeat on the Union Army of Virginia, under General John Pope. General George B McClellan's ambitious Peninsula Campaign against the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, had also been crushed the previous spring.

For Lee, who was already gaining a reputation as a talented field commander, the time was right for a bold offensive. A strike by the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia into Northern territory, while risky, might pay off if a big victory could be won there. Marching through Maryland, Lee's mighty host could rally the people of that border state to the Confederate flag, attracting new recruits for his ranks and supplies for his hungry and poorly equipped soldiers. Most importantly, European powers might finally recognise the Confederacy as an independent country. Recognition from Great Britain and other European nations meant the possibility of negotiating a peace. They might also offer money, military supplies, or even join the fight on the Confederate side.

With his grand plan in mind, Lee wrote to President Jefferson Davis, "The present seems the most propitious time since the beginning of the

★★★ "Lincoln needed a battlefield victory to secure his Emancipation Proclamation"

war for the Confederate Army to enter Maryland [...] we cannot afford to be idle." Lee's army, 55,000 strong and organised in two wings under Jackson and General James Longstreet, splashed across the Potomac River from Virginia on 4-7 September 1862.

Meanwhile, in Washington, DC, President Abraham Lincoln needed a battlefield victory in order to secure his Emancipation Proclamation. This document would transform the Civil War from a struggle to maintain the Union, into a crusade for human rights and the end of slavery. Lincoln had lost confidence in General McClellan after the failure of the Peninsula Campaign. He had transferred much of McClellan's army to General Pope and the Army of Virginia. However, after Pope's stinging defeat at Second Bull Run, Lincoln swallowed his pride and asked McClellan to gather the Union forces, protect Washington, DC, and destroy Lee's army.

Lincoln understood that McClellan was a cautious leader, but he was popular with the troops and a superb organiser. On 4 September, just two days after resuming command, McClellan received word that the Army of Northern Virginia was moving. The ranks of

the Army of the Potomac had grown to nearly 90,000 men by this time, and McClellan quickly organised the new arrivals from Pope's army into his ranks. Relying on reports that the Confederate invaders numbered nearly 200,000, he cautiously pursued Lee's forces. The Army of the Potomac left Rockville, Maryland, on the afternoon of the 4th and reached the town of Frederick on the 12th, five days after the Army of Northern Virginia had passed through.

Although Lee knew McClellan's tactics well, the Confederate commander's Maryland Campaign was troubled from the start. When Lee's army marched into Frederick, the townspeople stayed in their homes. An appeal to the people of Maryland was ignored, but still Lee pressed on.

When the 12,000-man garrison at the Federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, and the 2,500 Union troops at Martinsburg, did not abandon their positions immediately, Lee was forced to secure his supply lines. He divided his army, sending Jackson to take Harpers Ferry. Lee continued northward with Longstreet, hoping the army could concentrate at Hagerstown, Maryland, by 12 September. From there, the Confederates could

This imagined image of the Battle of Antietam depicts the fighting along the creek at Burnside Bridge



Images source: Getty Images

The American Civil War

move into Pennsylvania, burn the great railroad bridge across the Susquehanna River, possibly occupy the state capital at Harrisburg, and then threaten Philadelphia, Baltimore, or even Washington, DC.

However, Lee was beginning to worry, as precious time slipped away. He knew that McClellan, slow as he was, might catch the divided Confederate forces and overwhelm them. Against superior Union strength, Lee decided to act, confronting the Union forces at South Mountain on 14 September. Lee believed that the campaign had failed, so he reluctantly ordered a withdrawal across the Potomac to safety in Virginia. Within hours of the order, though, his hopes were raised by word from Jackson that Harpers Ferry was about to fall. Cancelling his order to withdraw, Lee rode with Longstreet to Antietam Creek, a tributary of the Potomac near the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland. He surveyed the ground and issued new orders for his scattered forces to concentrate along a low ridgeline east of the town. "We will make our stand on these hills," he concluded.

Meanwhile, McClellan had wasted a potentially vital piece of information that could have brought

on Lee's defeat and possibly even ended the Civil War. On 13 September, he received a captured document. A Union soldier had come across several cigars rolled up in a piece of paper. On this paper was Lee's Special Order No 191, detailing the complex Confederate plan. The document was eventually passed up the Union chain of command until it reached McClellan. "Now I know what to do!" He cried to his friend General John Gibbon, commander of the 4th Brigade in General Joseph Hooker's I Corps, "Here is a paper with which, if I cannot whip Bobbie Lee, I will be willing to go home."

Unfortunately for the Union, McClellan failed to press his advantage at South Mountain, and Jackson would soon be on the march from Harpers Ferry. Instead, McClellan was content to concentrate 75,000 troops to fight on his enemy's chosen ground along Antietam Creek.

On 15 September, Lee remained in a weak position but still thought he might snatch a victory. He expected McClellan's deliberate approach to work in his favour. With the fall of Harpers Ferry, the bulk of Jackson's command was rapidly covering the 27 kilometres (17 miles) to Sharpsburg. General AP Hill's Light Division stayed behind, freeing prisoners and capturing supplies before racing toward the Antietam.

Lee deployed his forces skilfully, with General JEB Stuart's cavalry screening his left flank. This flank was secured by General John Bell Hood's division at the edge of a thick forest locally known as the West Woods, and on open ground around a whitewashed church. Within hours, this building would become the scene of horrific fighting. Lee deployed DH Hill's division across the Boonesborough Pike and into a sunken road that would soon be known as the 'Bloody Lane'. Lee's line ended in the south, at the lowest of three stone bridges across the creek. Here, five brigades of General DR Jones's division covered a mile of ground.

On the afternoon of 15 September, McClellan's forces began arriving in the area. The Union forces gathered rapidly, but McClellan decided not to attack Lee. Instead, he spent hours positioning his troops with the idea that Generals Hooker and Joseph K F Mansfield would attack Lee's left flank with the I and XII Corps. Meanwhile the IX Corps, under General Ambrose Burnside would assault the Confederate right. If either met with success, the II and VI Corps, commanded by Generals Edwin V Sumner and William B Franklin respectively, could advance. General Fitz John Porter's V Corps in the Union centre was also positioned for support.

THE BATTLEFIELD DEAD

A series of photographs taken in the aftermath of the Battle of Antietam electrified the America public with war's horror

Just hours after the Battle of Antietam ended, two photographers, Alexander Gardner and James Gibson, employed by famed entrepreneur Matthew Brady, arrived on the scene. Photography was still a relatively recent invention, but the images these men produced after the Battle of Antietam shocked the American public.

Gardner and Gibson took 70 photographs within five days of the battle. It was the first time that photographers had recorded fresh scenes of carnage. Stark, haunting images of

bodies mangled by artillery shells, shot to death, their sightless eyes staring and limbs contorted, were published at Brady's New York City studio in October. New Yorkers flocked to gaze at the gruesome face of war.

A *New York Times* editorial at the end of the month observed, "The living that throng Broadway care little perhaps for the Dead of Antietam, but we fancy they would jostle less carelessly down the great thoroughfare, saunter less at their ease, were a few dripping bodies,

fresh from the field, laid along the pavement... As it is, the dead of the battle-field come up to us very rarely, even in dreams. We see the list in the morning paper at breakfast, but dismiss its recollection with the coffee... We recognize the battle-field as a reality, but it stands as a remote one...Mr. Brady has done something to bring home to us the terrible reality and earnestness of war. If he has not brought bodies and laid them in our dooryards and along our streets, he has done something very like it..."



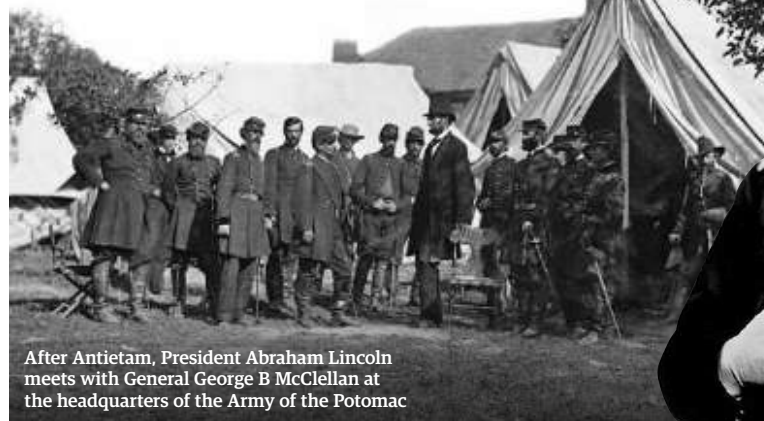
In one of Alexander Gardner's death studies, the bodies of Confederate soldiers lie along a rail fence on the Hagerstown Turnpike

By the evening of the 16th, shots were fired by both sides as Hooker moved into position to attack at first light. At the same time, three of Jackson's divisions arrived, improving Lee's chances a bit. Jackson rode up to Lee and Longstreet about noon on the 16th, and the three men watched thousands of Union troops crowding into position across Antietam Creek.

At dawn, Hooker's corps advanced down the Hagerstown Turnpike as the artillery of both sides opened fire. This opened the action on the bloodiest single day of combat in American history. To reach their objective, the Union soldiers had to cross a cornfield belonging to a local farmer named David Miller. The stalks here were head-high, ready for harvest. This field became the focus of savage fighting on the morning of 17 September. Afterwards, it was simply known as 'The Cornfield.'

Hooker noticed Confederate soldiers moving among the stalks and ordered an artillery battery to open fire. "In the time I am writing every stalk of corn in the northern and greater part of the field was cut as closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain lay in rows precisely as they stood in their ranks a few moments before. It was never my fortune to witness a more bloody, dismal battlefield."

The fight on the Confederate left lasted about three hours as control of the Cornfield changed hands 15 times. During the night, Hood's men had been replaced by two brigades under General Alexander Lawton. As his line wavered, Lawton asked for help. Hood's men, most of them from Texas, were cooking breakfast - their first hot meal in days. They threw away coffee and biscuits, stuffing bacon into their mouths, and charged. Their anger boiling over, the Texans slammed into Hooker's troops and threw them back 400 yards, almost to their starting point. However, the Confederate infantry charged too far, and the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment suffered 186 killed or wounded in half an hour, a casualty rate of 82 per cent, the highest of any regiment, Union or Confederate, in the entire war. Hood was appalled at the losses, and when another officer

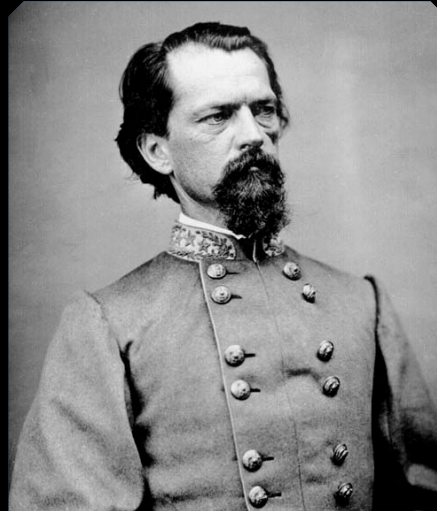


After Antietam, President Abraham Lincoln meets with General George B McClellan at the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac

MIRACULOUS SURVIVAL AT ANTIETAM

Colonel John B Gordon was wounded repeatedly during the battle, but survived to tell the tale

The colonel commanding the 6th Alabama Infantry Regiment was in the thick of the fighting at the sunken road on 17 September 1862. Future General John B Gordon ordered his men to wait until the enemy was 30 steps away.



General John B Gordon survived the Civil War and went on to a political career, later serving as Governor of Georgia

He yelled "Fire!" and the line erupted. "My rifles flamed and roared in the Federals' faces..." he wrote years later.

But if Gordon's men had sown the wind, their commander endured the whirlwind. Already surviving a wound suffered at Malvern Hill earlier that spring, Gordon was near death by afternoon. The first wound he received was through the right calf, and the second tore into the same leg. A third bullet ripped into his left arm. The fourth struck his shoulder. Incredibly, he remained on his feet. Then, his fifth wound of the day nearly took his life. The missile struck his right cheek, shattering his jaw. Gordon fell facedown on the ground, bleeding profusely. He remembered later that only a bullet hole in his hat, allowing drainage, kept him from drowning in his own blood.

When he regained consciousness, Gordon crawled some distance before being loaded on a stretcher and taken to a field hospital. He defied the odds, and his wife kept an infection at bay with iodine and by feeding him broth. Ten months after his grievous wounds, Gordon returned to service. He participated in several later engagements, was wounded at least two more times, and eventually led troops in the last battle of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House in 1865.



"The Texans slammed into Hooker's troops and threw them back"

asked where his division was located, the general replied, "Dead on the field."

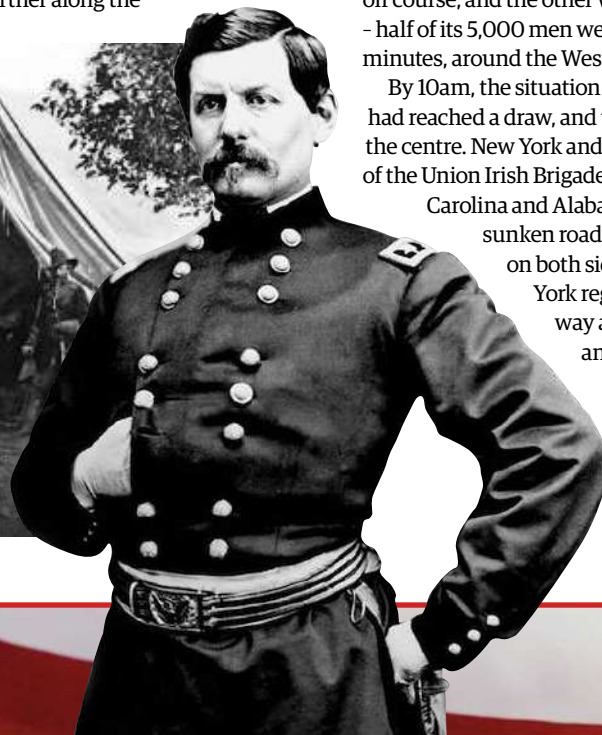
General Mansfield soon led an attack in support of Hooker, pressing toward the Dunker Church and further along the

Hagerstown Turnpike, but Mansfield was killed, and Confederate artillery smashed the assault. As General Sumner led two divisions in support, Jackson sprang a trap. One Union division strayed off course, and the other was caught in a crossfire - half of its 5,000 men were shot down in just 20 minutes, around the West Woods.

By 10am, the situation on the Confederate left had reached a draw, and the action shifted to the centre. New York and Massachusetts troops of the Union Irish Brigade assaulted the North

Carolina and Alabama men holding the sunken road. Casualties were heavy on both sides until two New York regiments worked their way around the right flank and poured devastating fire down the length of Bloody Lane.

Confederate bodies were piled on top of one another, and a misunderstood



Images source: Wiki



The American Civil War

command caused the defenders to fall back 600 yards. McClellan had plenty of reserves but did not commit more troops. In fact, he ordered a halt and reorganised the new Union position, allowing another opportunity to slip away. General Longstreet personally helped to steady the Confederate centre, and again the fighting shifted to the south of the battlefield.

From morning until mid-afternoon, General Burnside became obsessed with crossing the lower stone bridge. Even after some Union troops crossed Antietam Creek a mile away, he continued his attack. Four hundred Georgia and South Carolina troops under General Robert Toombs occupied the ground above the bridge and stopped repeated attempts to take it. Finally, two regiments of New York and Pennsylvania troops charged under a hail of gunfire. They drove the defenders back, expecting to begin working their way up to the high ground.

Burnside was now in position to crush Lee's right flank. The Confederate commander had been pulling reinforcements from this flank all day, in order to support his threatened centre and left. However, Burnside wasted two hours before starting towards Sharpsburg. He set off around 3pm with the thinly stretched Confederates fighting all the way. Sluggishly, Burnside's troops marched to within 800 metres (half a mile) of Sharpsburg, but just as Lee's position neared collapse AP Hill's Light Division came rolling down the dirt road from Harpers Ferry and smashed into Burnside, halting the Union drive and taking the last bit of fight out of McClellan. Hill's march had been virtually non-stop. Some men had fallen out of the ranks, overcome by the heat and the pace of the advance. But those who reached the field, though exhausted, went into action immediately.

The Battle of Antietam, a bloody tactical draw, ended with darkness. A staggering 23,000 dead and wounded lay strewn across the landscape, at least 12,000 Union and nearly 11,000 Confederate. Lee was in no position to assume the offensive but stood his ground the entire next day. McClellan decided not to continue the struggle, allowing Lee to then withdraw across the Potomac.

Despite the cost in lives, Antietam was enough for Lincoln to approve the Emancipation Proclamation, effective 1 January 1863. For the Confederate cause, the Maryland Campaign was a major setback. With the retreat following the Battle of Antietam, the state of Maryland remained in the Union, while the possibility of European recognition faded with the Emancipation Proclamation - Britain had abolished slavery years earlier. Lee would continue to lead the Army of Northern Virginia, however, he would never be as close to a final victory as he had been in the summer of 1862. A year later, Lee would invade the North once more, but by this time Stonewall Jackson was dead, and the road led to Gettysburg.

Map: Nicholas Forder



01 Lee Makes A Stand

General Robert E Lee deploys his Army of Northern Virginia along a ridgeline next to Antietam Creek and awaits attack from the Union Army of the Potomac, hoping that reinforcements, under General Stonewall Jackson, will arrive swiftly from Harpers Ferry.

05 Hill Roars To The Attack

Marching at a quick pace from Harpers Ferry, General AP Hill's Light Division arrives in the nick of time to counter-attack Burnside, stopping his advance on Sharpsburg and saving Robert E Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia from catastrophic defeat.

04 Blunder At Burnside Bridge

Fighting shifts southward again. General Ambrose Burnside orders repeated attempts to take a stone bridge across Antietam Creek. After finally gaining the opposite bank, Burnside begins a sluggish advance toward Sharpsburg against thin Confederate defences, endangering General Lee's entire position.

02 Fighting Rages In The Cornfield

Early in the morning, a 24-acre cornfield becomes the centre of the storm on the Confederate left as combat ebbs and flows. Fighting also swirls around the nearby Dunker Church and the West Woods, but neither side gains the upper hand. Though much damage is done, Jackson's men do not give up.

03 Slaughter At The Sunken Road

The fighting shifts to the centre, where repeated Union attacks against the sunken road, later known as 'Bloody Lane', are repulsed. Finally, Union troops flank the defenders, turning the position into a deathtrap. No reinforcements appear to exploit the Confederate retreat.

Union Troops commanded by McClellan

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  - Hooker |  - Mansfield |  - Franklin |
|  - Sumner |  - Porter |  - Burnside |

Confederate Troops Commanded by Lee

- | | |
|---|--|
|  - Jackson |  - Longstreet |
|---|--|



State of Play

1863-1864

A tough struggle against determined Confederate opposition finds the Union forces victorious on all fronts

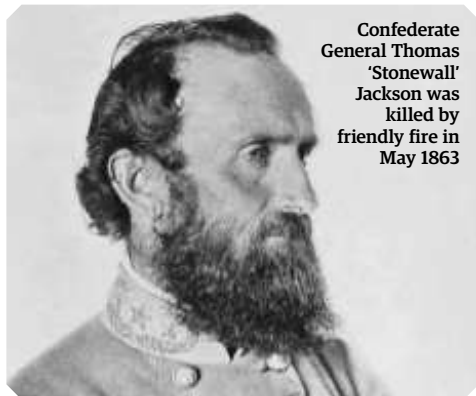
Words by **Mike Haskew**

During the difficult years of 1863 and 1864, the Confederacy began to lose ground against the Union, as the fortunes of war turned against the rebel states. On 1 January 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, transforming the Civil War from a struggle to save the Union into a crusade for human rights.

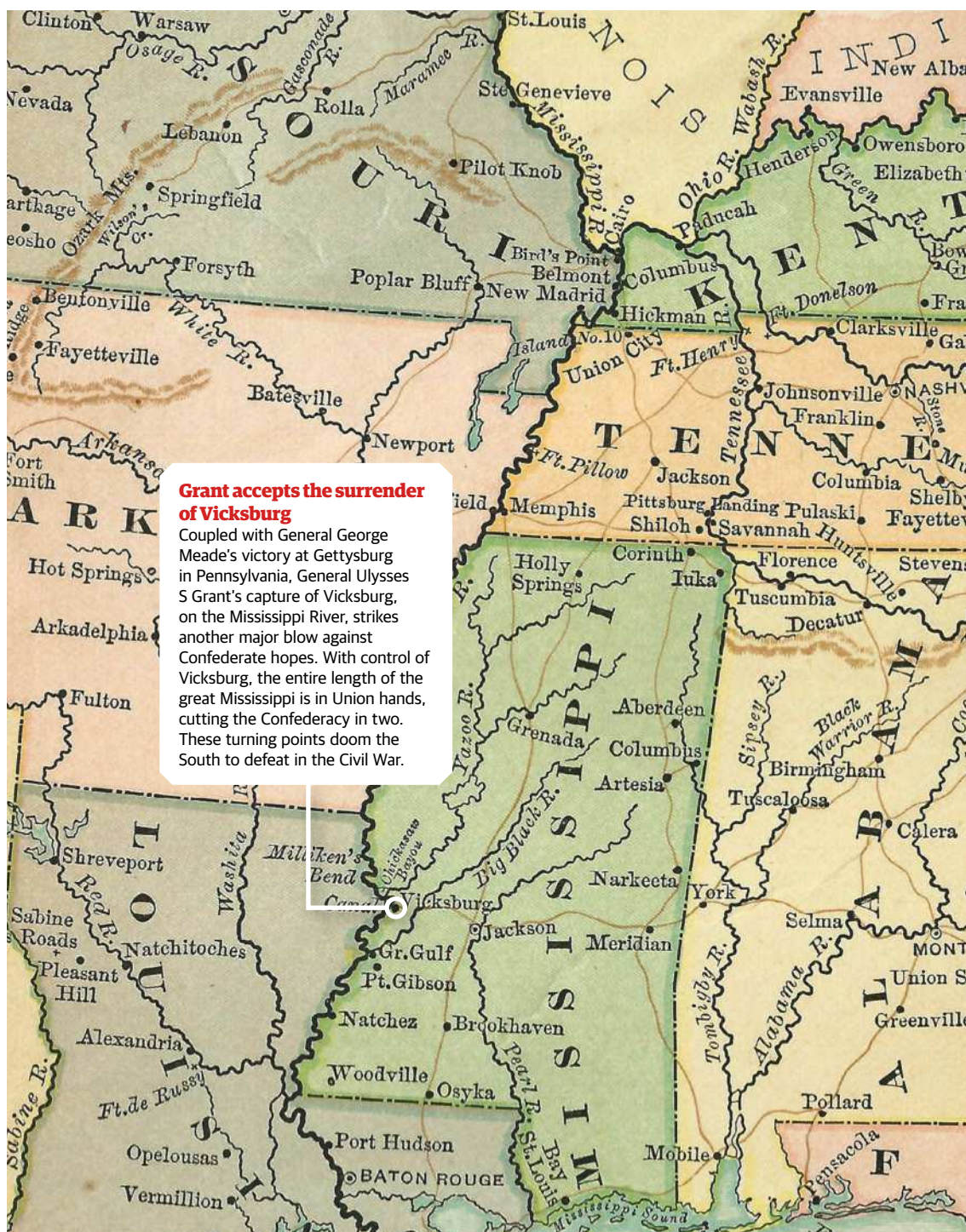
General Ulysses S Grant took command of Union armies in the West and began a difficult campaign to capture Vicksburg on the Mississippi River. By spring, however, the Union Army of the Potomac, under General Joseph Hooker, was defeated by Robert E Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Chancellorsville. The cost for the Confederates was high, however - General Stonewall Jackson was killed by friendly fire.

Lee's army invaded the North a second time but was defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg on 1-3 July 1863. The Confederate forces now became more defensive. In the West, Grant took Vicksburg on 4 July, but the Battle of Chickamauga resulted in a Union defeat in September. The Confederates, under General Braxton Bragg, could not maintain their siege of Chattanooga, and after Grant raised the siege, General William T Sherman began his Atlanta Campaign and the March to the Sea.

Grant pursued Lee during the Overland Campaign in the spring of 1864, fighting battles at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor, before besieging the Confederates at Petersburg. Sherman captured Atlanta in September and began his epic march of destruction, occupying Savannah in December.

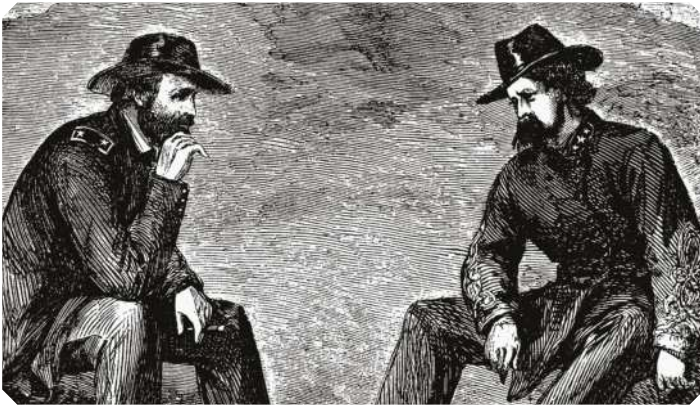


Confederate General Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson was killed by friendly fire in May 1863



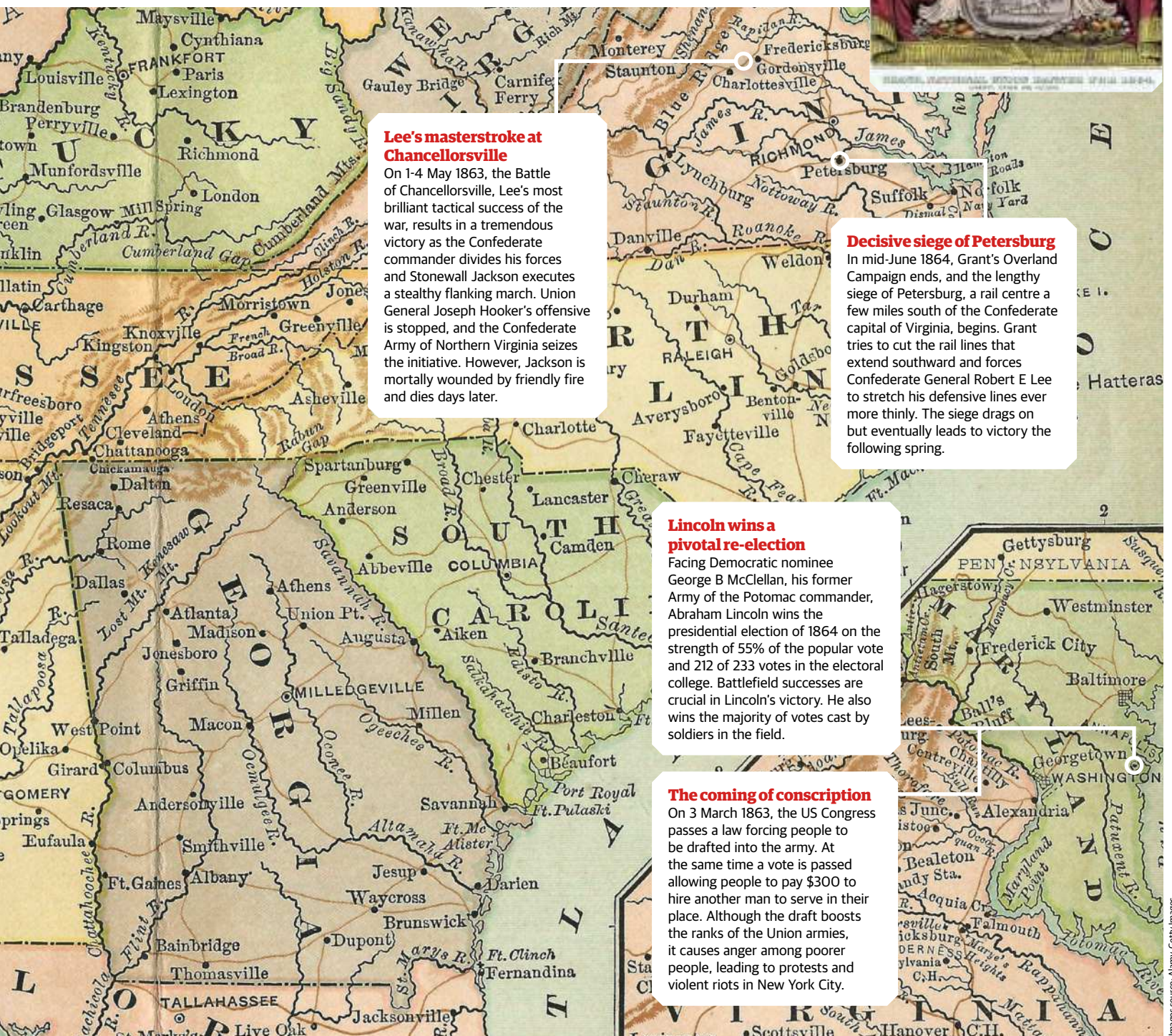
Grant accepts the surrender of Vicksburg

Coupled with General George Meade's victory at Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, General Ulysses S Grant's capture of Vicksburg, on the Mississippi River, strikes another major blow against Confederate hopes. With control of Vicksburg, the entire length of the great Mississippi is in Union hands, cutting the Confederacy in two. These turning points doom the South to defeat in the Civil War.



Left: Union General Ulysses S. Grant (left) negotiates the surrender of Vicksburg with Confederate General John Pemberton (right)

Right: A campaign poster touts the successful Republican ticket of Abraham Lincoln and vice presidential candidate Andrew Johnson in 1864



Lee's masterstroke at Chancellorsville

On 1-4 May 1863, the Battle of Chancellorsville, Lee's most brilliant tactical success of the war, results in a tremendous victory as the Confederate commander divides his forces and Stonewall Jackson executes a stealthy flanking march. Union General Joseph Hooker's offensive is stopped, and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia seizes the initiative. However, Jackson is mortally wounded by friendly fire and dies days later.

Decisive siege of Petersburg

In mid-June 1864, Grant's Overland Campaign ends, and the lengthy siege of Petersburg, a rail centre a few miles south of the Confederate capital of Virginia, begins. Grant tries to cut the rail lines that extend southward and forces Confederate General Robert E. Lee to stretch his defensive lines ever more thinly. The siege drags on but eventually leads to victory the following spring.

Lincoln wins a pivotal re-election

Facing Democratic nominee George B. McClellan, his former Army of the Potomac commander, Abraham Lincoln wins the presidential election of 1864 on the strength of 55% of the popular vote and 212 of 233 votes in the electoral college. Battlefield successes are crucial in Lincoln's victory. He also wins the majority of votes cast by soldiers in the field.

The coming of conscription

On 3 March 1863, the US Congress passes a law forcing people to be drafted into the army. At the same time a vote is passed allowing people to pay \$300 to hire another man to serve in their place. Although the draft boosts the ranks of the Union armies, it causes anger among poorer people, leading to protests and violent riots in New York City.



Cabinet members gather around President Lincoln in this painting depicting the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation

How one document joined the end of slavery with the preservation of the Union as President Lincoln's ultimate goals in the Civil War

Words by **Mike Haskew**

A

lthough President Abraham Lincoln was personally appalled by slavery, he knew large parts of the USA did not agree.

After the outbreak of the Civil War, Lincoln's main objective was to preserve the Union. To do this, he had to find agreement between the Republican and Democratic political parties. A policy calling for an end to slavery would risk the loyalty of states such as Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and later West Virginia, where the practice was common. Also, the US Constitution allowed slavery to continue in areas where it was the will of the people. Despite this, Lincoln led the Republican party to seek an end to slavery.

In August 1862, the president wrote to Horace Greeley, editor of the *New-York Tribune*: "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that." As he wrote to Greeley, a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation was sat in his desk drawer.

As the Civil War continued, slaves began to flee plantations in the South and sought sanctuary within Union army lines. At first, it was a trickle of humanity, then a flood. Union officers either accepted the 'runaways' or returned them to their owners who asserted loyalty to the United States. They were, according to the law, property. However, this situation changed as it became it

★★★

"His tremendous victory at Verneruil was soon dubbed by contemporaries as the second Agincourt"

emerged that some slaves were being used to support the Confederate war effort. Soon, the army was allowed to employ freed slaves as soldiers, and 'confiscate' slaves from their owners.

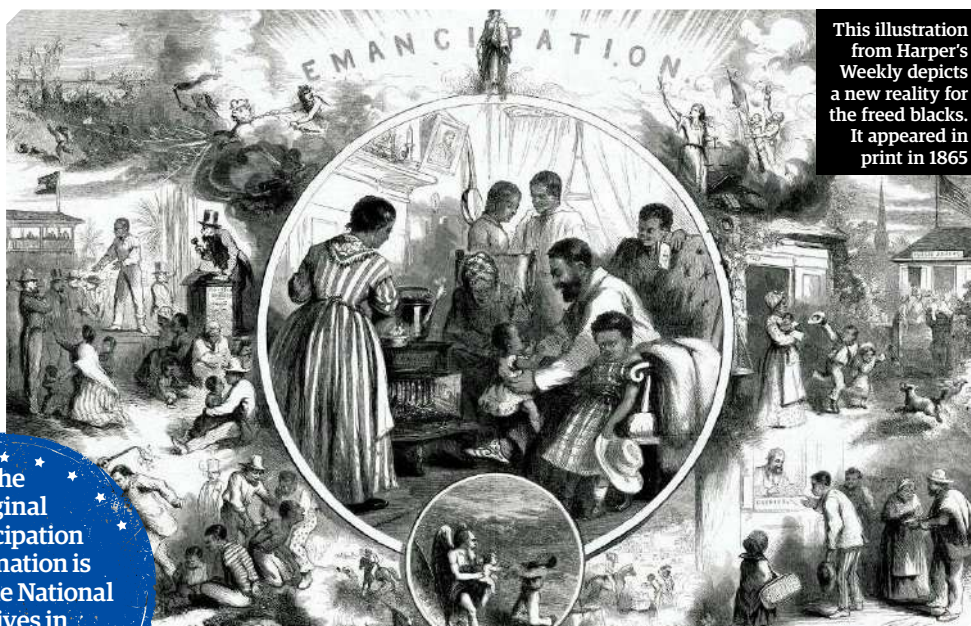
After the bloody Battle of Antietam on 17 September 1862, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the document which freed the slaves in territories then in rebellion. In the process, the president successfully linked the end of slavery and the proclamation to the preservation of the Union.

The Emancipation Proclamation weakened the Confederate war effort, removing a large portion of the states' source of labour. By the end of the war 180,000 free blacks had joined the US Army. Also, the possibility of interference from European nations, where slavery had long been outlawed, was virtually eliminated. The text asserts that the Emancipation Proclamation was an "...act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity..." Later, the eradication of slavery became a Union war objective.

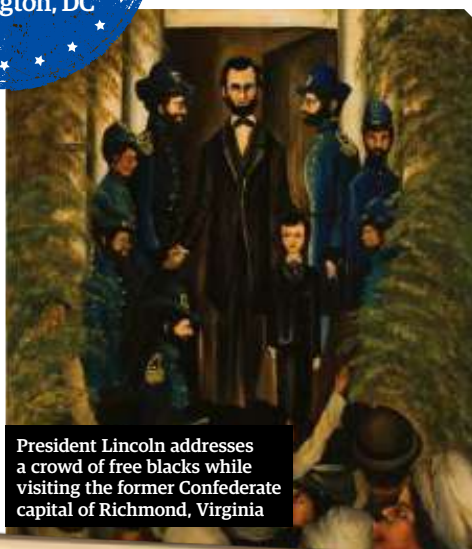
Historians argue as to whether the Emancipation Proclamation actually freed any slaves, but it was nonetheless a huge moment in the country's history. Lincoln had seized the moral high ground, maintained the support of his political base, defused the objections of opponents, and transformed the Civil War into a crusade for freedom and human rights.

In January 1865, Congress passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery. The inhuman institution was effectively finished in the USA.

The original Emancipation Proclamation is kept at the National Archives in Washington, DC



This illustration from Harper's Weekly depicts a new reality for the freed blacks. It appeared in print in 1865



President Lincoln addresses a crowd of free blacks while visiting the former Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia



This painting by Henry Louis Stephens depicts a man reading a newspaper that brought word of the Emancipation Proclamation and its implications for the future of slavery

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

In his famous speech, President Lincoln described the cause of freedom and honoured the sacrifice of those who died for it

The Battle of Gettysburg, like so many others in the terrible Civil War, had left thousands dead in its wake. By the autumn of 1863, an effort to bury the thousands of Union soldiers who had died there was well underway, and the time came for the dedication of the new national cemetery. President Abraham Lincoln was invited to attend and deliver a few "appropriate remarks."

In that era, such an event was a spectacle, and speeches were often lengthy. At the Gettysburg dedication, the featured speaker was Senator Edward Everett of Massachusetts, known far and wide for his captivating speeches. Lincoln travelled to Gettysburg by train, and on 19 November 1863, a crowd gathered. Everett spoke for two hours about the momentous battle, to the enjoyment

of the crowd. Next, President Lincoln moved to the speakers' post and delivered a 272-word, ten-sentence speech, which was over in barely two minutes. Polite applause greeted its end, and Lincoln awkwardly remarked: "That plough didn't scour!" The president believed he had failed to impress the crowd with his words.

However, he was gravely wrong. The Gettysburg Address stands today as one of the most celebrated documents in American history. Its clear meaning and concise delivery adds to the power and significance of its message. Everett freely acknowledged the triumph, telling Lincoln, "I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

Below: One of two confirmed photographs of Lincoln at Gettysburg shows the president seated, bareheaded, near the centre of the image





Lee's Fateful March North

Believing victory lay with a successful offensive in the North, Robert E Lee led the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in a second invasion

Words by **Mike Haskew**



In spring 1863, General Robert E Lee, leading the Army of Northern Virginia, defeated the Union Army of the Potomac, under General Joseph Hooker, at Chancellorsville. The victory is remembered as Lee's tactical masterpiece, but it was also costly. General Thomas J 'Stonewall' Jackson, his most capable officer, was mortally wounded by friendly fire and died a few days after the battle.

Before Chancellorsville, the Army of Northern Virginia had remained defensive, since its first invasion of the North had been turned back at Antietam the previous September. Still, Lee knew the war could not be won defensively. Supplies were running low, and his army would eventually be unable to fight. Despite the loss of Jackson, the time had come to invade Northern territory again.

Lee's objectives were similar to those of his 1862 Maryland Campaign. With a major victory on Northern soil, the Confederates might threaten Baltimore, Maryland, Pennsylvania's capital of Harrisburg, or even Washington, DC. More troubling for the Confederacy was the campaigns in the West, where Vicksburg, Mississippi, was besieged by Union forces. An

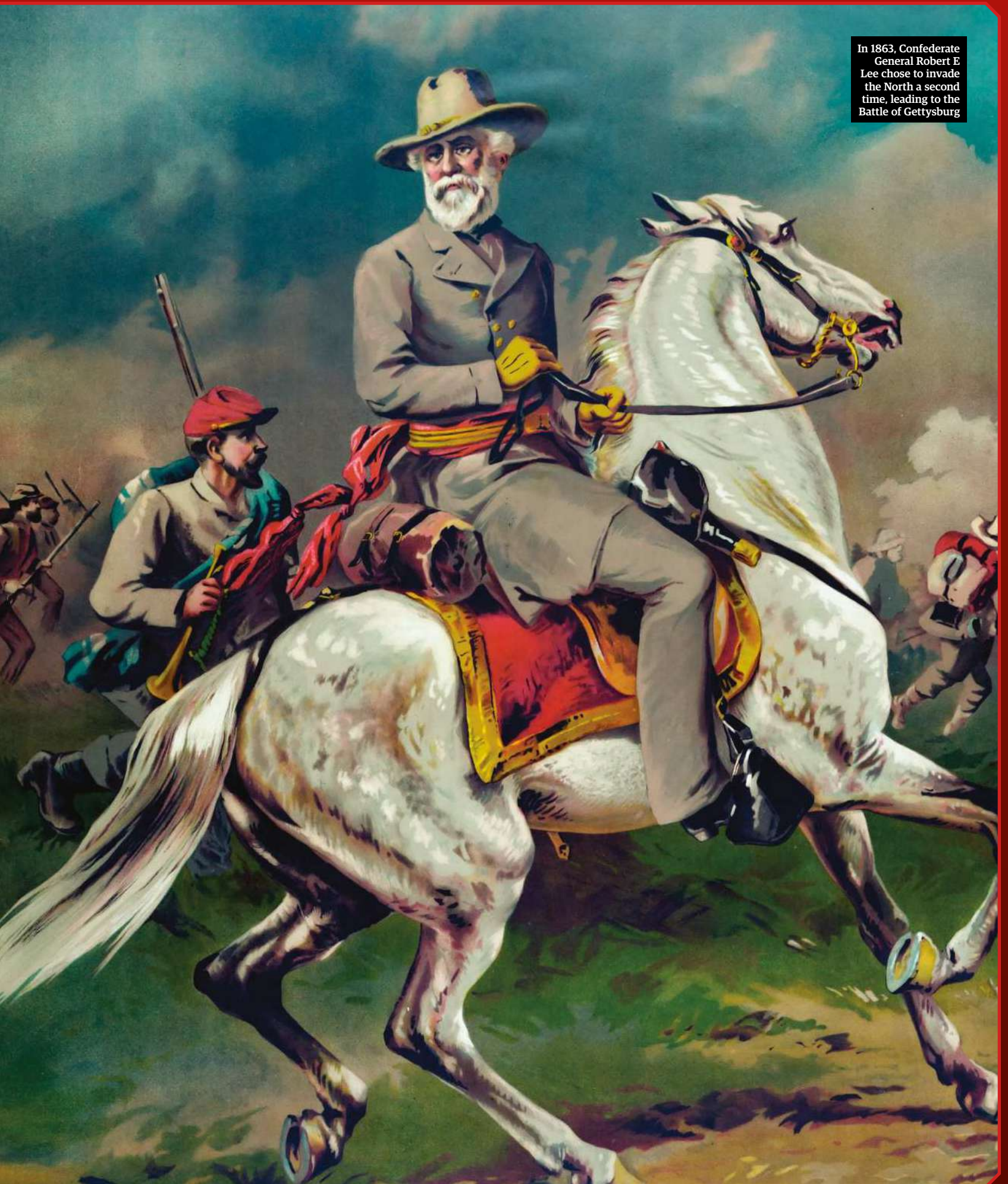
invasion of Pennsylvania, Lee thought, might draw Union troops away from the imperilled Western Theater. In mid-May, Lee travelled to Richmond, Virginia, to speak with President Jefferson Davis and other government officials. They agreed to a second invasion of the North. It was a big risk - much of Lee's movement would be in response of the Union army.

Lee's troop strength approached 75,000 men. Prior to launching his offensive, he reorganised the Army of Northern Virginia into three groups. General James Longstreet commanded I Corps. General Richard S Ewell, was given II Corps, and General AP Hill was placed in command of the newly established III Corps.

On 3 June, Lee ordered an advance from Fredericksburg, Virginia, toward Culpeper. From there, his army would move into the Shenandoah Valley, crossing into Maryland and Pennsylvania and entering the Cumberland Valley. Lee's advance would be covered by veteran cavalry under General James Ewell Brown 'JEB' Stuart.

As early as 27 May, Hooker had received reports that the Confederates would soon be on the march. A week later, he sent a strong force of cavalry and infantry under General Alfred

In 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee chose to invade the North a second time, leading to the Battle of Gettysburg.





The American Civil War

Pleasanton to destroy Stuart's cavalry located around Culpeper. On 9 June, the largest cavalry engagement of the Civil War, the Battle of Brandy Station, took place.

Stuart was taken by surprise, and a fight began, with pistols firing and sabres slashing. While Union flank attacks stretched the defenders, counterattacks slowed the initial assault. The fighting raged for 14 hours, but the Confederates forced the Union men to withdraw, claiming a tactical victory. Stuart's embarrassment would remain with him throughout the campaign. Union losses numbered 935 killed, wounded and captured, while the Confederates lost 525.

The next day, Lee sent Ewell's corps across the Blue Ridge toward Winchester, Virginia. Ewell took the city, capturing more than 3,300 of its 5,000-man Union garrison. On 19 June, Longstreet was in the Shenandoah, but was slowed while helping Stuart fight off Union cavalry.

Still smarting from Brandy Station, Stuart ordered a bold ride around Hooker's army to wreak havoc and disrupt the pursuit of the invading Confederate army. Lee depended on the cavalry to act as the 'eyes' of his army; accurate knowledge of the Union army's movements was essential to the success of the campaign. On 22 June, he authorised Stuart's movement only if

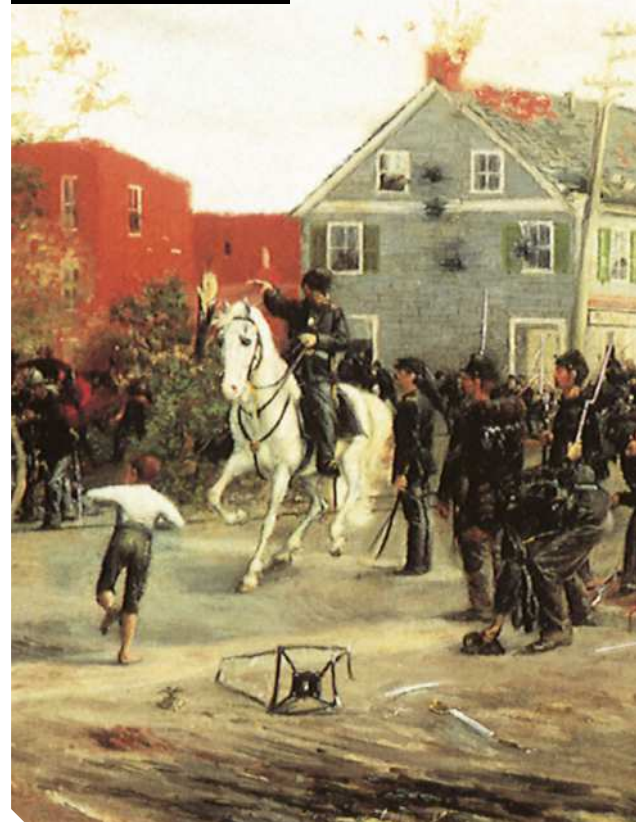
Hooker's army remained stationary, south of the Potomac River, adding to this: "[...] judge whether you can pass around their army without hindrance, doing all the damage you can, and cross the river east of the mountains [...] after crossing the river, you must move on and feel the right of Ewell's troops."

Stuart ignored the full meaning of Lee's order, and on the morning of the 25th took his cavalry east and out of communication with Lee for eight days. Lee had no idea where the Army of the Potomac was located. Hooker moved his army into northern Virginia, roughly 32 kilometres (20 miles) southwest of Washington, DC. His cavalry reported that Lee's army stretched for miles in the Shenandoah, marching north.

The front of the Confederate column crossed the Potomac River, and General Robert Rodes's division of Ewell's corps reached Chambersburg, 32 kilometres (20 miles) into Pennsylvania on 19 June. Lee advised Ewell to turn and capture Harrisburg if possible. Ewell ordered Generals Rodes and Edward Johnson to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, toward Harrisburg, while General Jubal Early's division was directed to Wrightsville on the Susquehanna River. Lee's army eventually stretched 115 kilometres (72 miles) across south Pennsylvania. Although some brief clashes had

The Battle of Gettysburg lasted three days, beginning on the 1 July. It ended in over 51,000 casualties

Union troops occupy the town of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, as the Army of the Potomac concentrates at Gettysburg



A depiction of captured African-Americans being driven south by rebel officers, which featured in *Harper's Weekly Magazine* in 1862



LEE AND STUART

The relationship between General Robert E Lee and his cavalry commander, General JEB Stuart grew for over a decade

When General JEB Stuart arrived at the headquarters of the Army of Northern Virginia, on the field at Gettysburg, General Robert E Lee is said to have greeted the dashing cavalier with a cold, "Ah, General Stuart, you are here at last!" While there were no witnesses to this on the afternoon of 2 July 1863, there is no doubt that Lee believed he had been let down by Stuart's adventurous raid. By losing a line of communication with the main army, Lee had lost track of the Army of the Potomac for over a week.

This may have been the first break in a relationship that began in 1852, when then-Colonel Lee was made superintendent of the US Military Academy at West Point and Stuart was a cadet there. In 1859, Lee, with Stuart as his aide-de-camp, commanded the Marines and Maryland militia that captured John Brown, the abolitionist attempting to incite a slave insurrection with the seizure of the Federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry.

During the Civil War, Stuart's fame as a brilliant cavalry commander grew along with his reputation for enjoying dancing and colourful uniforms. On two occasions prior to the fateful Gettysburg campaign, he had ridden around the main Union army, raising havoc and providing valuable intelligence. After Gettysburg, Lee created a cavalry corps, naming Stuart its commander, but declined to pursue a promotion for Stuart

to lieutenant general. This was perhaps as a punishment. Nevertheless, any fracture in the relationship healed, and when Lee learned of Stuart's death in May 1864, he lamented, "I can hardly think of him without weeping."

General JEB Stuart, the dashing Confederate cavalry commander, often wore a hat decorated with an ostrich plume

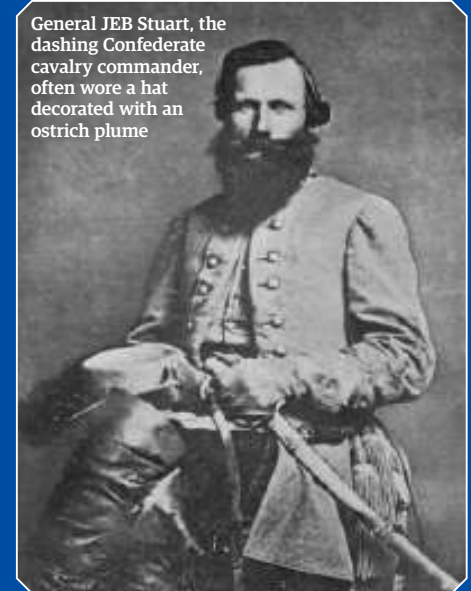


Image Source: Alamy

★★★ "Many Confederate soldiers had marched into Pennsylvania barefoot"

occurred, he still had no concrete information on where the Army of the Potomac was located.

Early's division reached the town of Gettysburg on the afternoon of 26 June, and the Confederate general demanded \$10,000 worth of provisions. When the townspeople could not comply, the Confederates searched the town. Early was impatient to move on, but he noticed a nearby shoe factory. Many Confederate soldiers had marched into Pennsylvania barefoot, so Early scrawled a note to AP Hill that III Corps soldiers might find shoes there. A day later, Early marched into the town of York, Pennsylvania. The head of his column, under General John B Gordon, moved on toward Wrightsville only to find the bridge across the river ablaze as 1,400 militiamen retreated. This stopped any plan to attack Harrisburg. Early pulled back to York, awaiting orders. He sent a brigade of cavalry up the road from Carlisle

toward Harrisburg, and on the night of the 28th, these horsemen bivouacked six kilometres (four miles) from Pennsylvania's capital, the deepest penetration of Confederate arms into Northern territory during the Civil War.

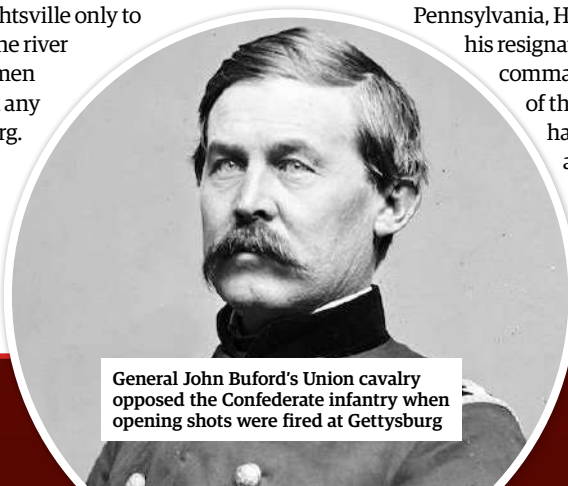
By the 28th Lee still had heard nothing from Stuart. But that evening, he received alarming news from a spy in Washington, DC. He claimed that the Army of the Potomac was on the march in Maryland and dangerously close to Lee's scattered army. Lee issued orders to his corps commanders to concentrate in the vicinity of Cashtown and Gettysburg and prepare for battle.

While the Confederates prowled through Pennsylvania, Hooker submitted his resignation from command of the Army of the Potomac. He had been denied a request that positions at Maryland Heights and Harpers Ferry

should be abandoned, and the 10,000 troops there reassigned to his command. General George Meade was notified of his elevation from corps to army command on 28 June. Gathering his forces together, the next day he marched 40 kilometres (25 miles) to the Pennsylvania border. General John Buford's cavalry division rode ahead, reaching Gettysburg at around 11am on 30 June.

The townspeople were relieved to see the Union soldiers arrive, because a Confederate force had only just departed. This force had been General James Pettigrew's brigade, of General Henry Heth's division, Hill's Corps, looking for the much-needed shoes. Lee had issued orders not to bring on a general engagement while the Army of Northern Virginia was still preparing and gathering together. When Pettigrew saw the winding column of Buford's cavalry, he chose to withdraw. He reported the sighting to Heth that afternoon. Hill joined the discussion, claiming that the Army of the Potomac was still miles away. With that, Heth gained permission to return to Gettysburg the next morning and finally "get those shoes".

As Buford's cavalry camped that night, he expected a Confederate attack at sunrise on 1 July and believed he would have to hold out until support arrived. Despite Lee's orders, Heth and Buford collided where neither army's commander had intended to fight, the little-known Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg.



General John Buford's Union cavalry opposed the Confederate infantry when opening shots were fired at Gettysburg



The American Civil War





Gettysburg

The bloodiest battle of the American Civil War, Gettysburg claimed over 6,000 lives and is seen by many as the turning point in the bitter conflict





The American Civil War

A

t noon on 2 July 1863, the summer heat had already sapped the energy from every man, Union or Confederate, unable to find a piece of shade. Nearby, the deserted town of Gettysburg lay quiet after the desperate fighting of the previous day. General George Meade had steadied his men, forming up a tight defence that he hoped would be enough to block his enemy's path to Washington DC. As shots were heard breaking out towards the Union's left flank, he realised that the attack had begun, but couldn't have any idea just how bloody the day would be.

The previous month Robert E Lee had marched the Army of Northern Virginia, numbering 72,000 men, to the north. Penetrating deep into Union territory, he hoped, would boost support for a peace deal between the North and the South. A victory in this invasion would also put great pressure on President Lincoln, and could even allow Lee to march on Washington DC itself.

The small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was strategically important because it was where several roads leading to the south, the north and elsewhere joined. Lee saw an opportunity to use these roads to spread his army. Major General Joseph Hooker, commanding the Army of the Potomac, had pursued Lee during his march north, following the rebel army to engage and destroy it. Three days before the battle, however, Hooker was replaced by General Meade. The new general's sudden rise through the ranks meant he was mistrusted among his officers, who questioned his ability to lead.

The two armies met at Gettysburg on 1 July, with light infantry exchanging shots at dawn. This soon escalated into a full-blown battle, as limited Union regiments defended their line against advancing Confederates. With General Meade not yet present on the battlefield, Union officers took the initiative to control the defence of Gettysburg, but disaster struck when the senior officer, Major General John F Reynolds, was struck down by a marksman's bullet.

Though they defended bravely, and delayed Lee's troops as much as they could, the Union soldiers were eventually forced to run for their lives through Gettysburg's streets and up into the hills to the south. Here, a defensive line of artillery had been arranged. As more reinforcements arrived, the position on the high ground was fortified further and the Union generals could only wait to see what General Lee would do the next day.

With Gettysburg surrounded and taken on the first day - at the cost of more lives than he would have wanted - General Lee was now as confident as he usually was of victory. He planned to outflank the Union position, killing its superior position on the high ground and forcing Meade to retreat from the field. The next two days would decide the fate of the United States, and would cost the lives of thousands of Americans.

09 Pickett's Charge

In the last major Confederate attack of the battle, General George Pickett is ordered to assault the Union centre with his relatively fresh division, with others under the command of General Longstreet. After a lengthy artillery bombardment from both sides, 12,000 Confederate soldiers attack, but are eventually fought back.

02 Sickles moves to attack

Major General Daniel Sickles moves his Third Corps, which holds the Union's left flank, to higher ground towards the west. This area, known as Devil's Den, can give his artillery a better position. General Meade sends in his Fifth Corps to support Sickles.

05 Bitter fighting in the Den

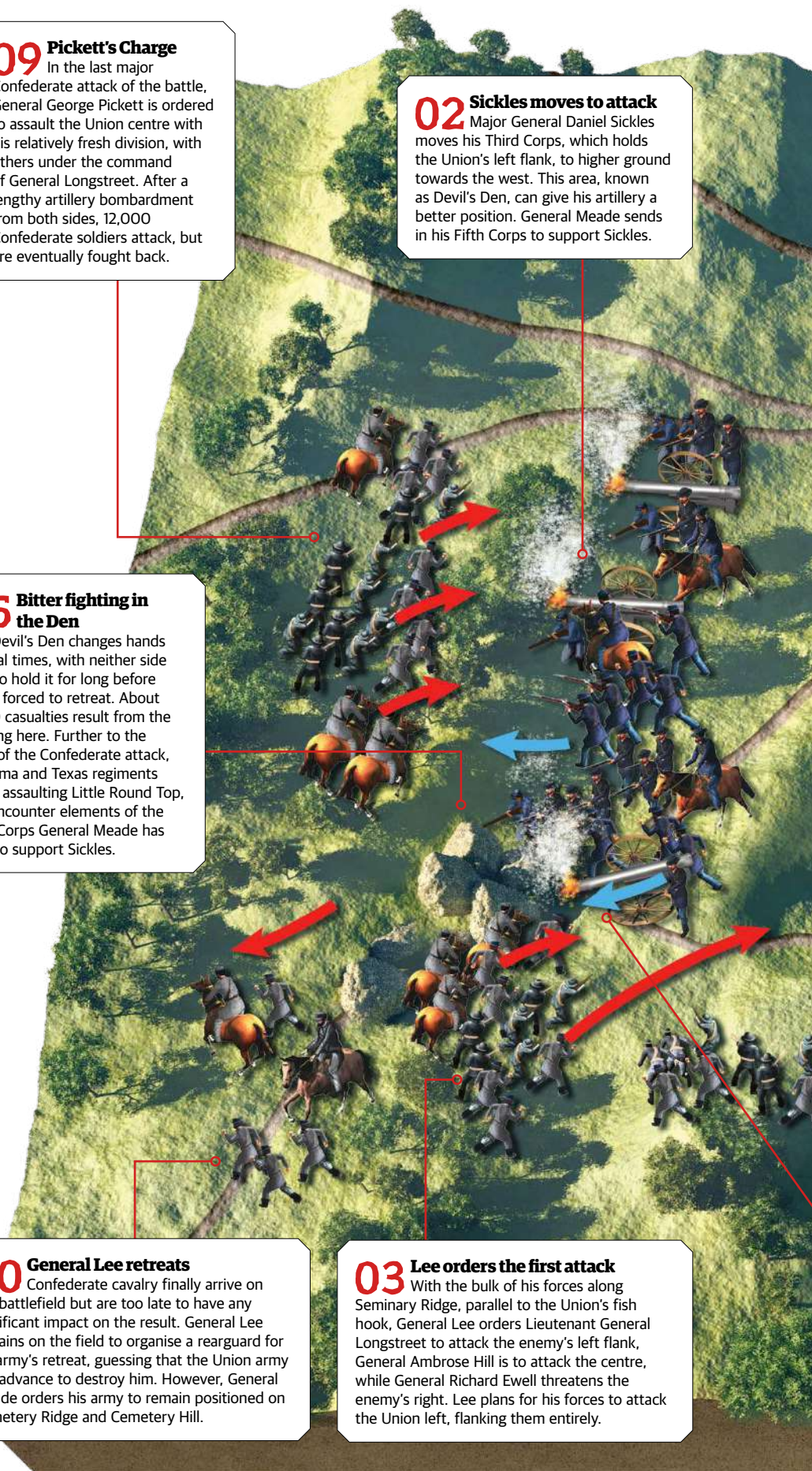
The Devil's Den changes hands several times, with neither side able to hold it for long before being forced to retreat. About 1,800 casualties result from the fighting here. Further to the right of the Confederate attack, Alabama and Texas regiments begin assaulting Little Round Top, but encounter elements of the Fifth Corps General Meade has sent to support Sickles.

10 General Lee retreats

Confederate cavalry finally arrive on the battlefield but are too late to have any significant impact on the result. General Lee remains on the field to organise a rearguard for his army's retreat, guessing that the Union army will advance to destroy him. However, General Meade orders his army to remain positioned on Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill.

03 Lee orders the first attack

With the bulk of his forces along Seminary Ridge, parallel to the Union's fish hook, General Lee orders Lieutenant General Longstreet to attack the enemy's left flank, General Ambrose Hill is to attack the centre, while General Richard Ewell threatens the enemy's right. Lee plans for his forces to attack the Union left, flanking them entirely.



GETTYSBURG

PENNSYLVANIA, 1-3 JULY 1863

08 The armies regroup

As night falls on 2 July, there are more than 14,000 casualties of the battlefield. The Union now holds a defensive line along Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery Hill and south to Little Round Top. In the evening, Confederate attacks on the right Union flank are barely repulsed, as the defences are under-strength from supporting Sickles' position in the day. The next day, more attacks on Culp's Hill and around Spangler's Spring on the Union right flank are stopped.

01 Forming the defensive line

After the retreat from Gettysburg on 1 July, General Meade forms his troops into the shape of an inverted fish hook - with the curve facing north in the direction of the town and a long straight line facing the Confederates to the west. With the high ground secured, and with each unit close enough to support one another, Meade is confident his Federal troops can hold off any attacks.

06 Battle for Little Round Top

With ammunition running low and having taken heavy casualties, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain orders his men to fix bayonets and charge the Confederate troops. The attack forces the rebels to retreat.

07 The end of the second day

Sickles's Third Corps is pressed hard by the Confederate attacks, with the Wheatfield and Devil's Den finally falling into enemy hands. Sickles is wounded by a cannonball to the leg as his men retreat to Cemetery Ridge, where they hold. A huge gap in the Union centre emerges after the Third Corps retreats, so the line is quickly reorganised to prevent the army being split in two.

04 Longstreet advances

Moving towards the Union's left flank, Longstreet's men encounter the Union Third Corps at the Devil's Den, a deadly position perfect for sharpshooting. Texas and Alabama regiments move towards Little Round Top to flank the Den.



Weapons of War

From accurate firearms, to piercing blades, the conflict produced a devastating array of deadly tools

Words by **David Smith**

SPRINGFIELD MODEL 1861 RIFLED MUSKET

WEAPON OF CHOICE

With a 40-inch rifled barrel, the Model 1861 musket was a far deadlier weapon than those with smoothbore barrels. While smoothbore muskets were known for being inaccurate (hence the preference to fire them in massed volleys in the hope of hitting something), the rifled Model 1861 was far more lethal. It fired a Minié ball, which was able to slip easily into a rifled barrel. After firing, the ball expanded to tightly fit the grooves of the barrel.

The rate of fire for the Model 1861 was still low, at around three rounds per minute, but the shots were effective to around 300 yards. This made the rifled musket the dominant weapon on the battlefields of the American Civil War and production was licensed out to various contractors to keep up with demand. More than a million were made during the war, with the weapon being used by both the Union and Confederate armies.

The rifled musket represented a great leap forward in weapons design

MORTAR SIEGE SPECIALIST

The 12-pounder 'Napoleon' cannon may have been the main artillery piece on the battlefield, but for siege work, the mortar was the best choice. These squat, ugly guns fired shells at a steep trajectory, allowing them to be lobbed over defensive walls. This enabled a besieging force to kill the garrison of a fort, or at least prevent them from easily using their own defensive guns. Identifiable by their muzzle diameter, mortars ranged between 5.82 inches and 13 inches in size.

Gun crews operating a variety of mortars, including (front) an eight-inch design, which would fire a 44-pound shell



The sabre is prominent in this depiction of a cavalry charge at the Battle of Yellow Tavern in 1864



CAVALRY SABRE

WEAPON FROM A BYGONE AGE

Although the American Civil War is famous for the emergence of many modern innovations and technologies, it still featured many traditional weapons. Although the sabre had played a prominent role in battles for many centuries, the sword still held its place in the armoury of the 19th century soldier. However, as cavalry charges became less common (because they often resulted in huge casualties), their new skirmishing role saw them wield pistols or carbines instead. Swords were often still carried, but not utilised as much.

With a blade of 32 inches, around 300,000 Model 1860 Cavalry Sabres were produced in the war

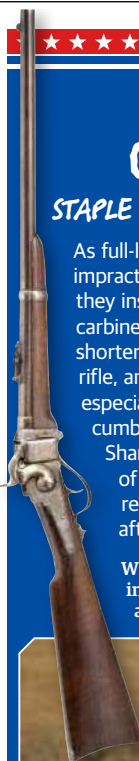


SHARPS CARBINE

STAPLE WEAPON OF THE CAVALRY

As full-length rifled muskets were impractical for cavalry units to carry, they instead were armed with smaller carbine guns. The Sharps carbine was a shorter version of the same company's rifle, and it proved much more popular, especially in the Union Army. Less cumbersome than the longer rifle, the Sharps carbine could fire at a rate of ten shots per minute and still remained in use for many years after the end of the Civil War.

With a barrel length of just 22 inches, the Sharps carbine had a rather snub-nosed appearance



Sharps in use, from 1st Maine Cavalry Skirmishing by Alfred R Waud (Library of Congress)

BAYONET OBJECT OF DREAD



The bayonet was a fearsome weapon, but few soldiers were actually wounded or killed by it. This does not mean it was ineffective, however, as a massed bayonet charge could be enough to scatter an opponent, assuming they were not able to stop it with accurate rifle or artillery fire. The bayonet

was therefore more of a psychological weapon - the dread of being bayoneted meant that very few were brave enough to stand their ground if an enemy charge drew near.

Above: Rifles with bayonets attached



A Gatling gun on display in Washington, DC following the war

GATLING GUN THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Although the Gatling gun was only actually used occasionally during the American Civil War, it remains one of the iconic weapons of the conflict. A design that came before the machine gun, it was fired by the operation of a crank and was capable of around 200 rounds per minute.

The rotary design enabled rapid fire without overheating the barrel, because six barrels were in operation instead of one. Not officially adopted by the US government until after the war, a limited number were purchased privately and deployed by Union commanders.

MODEL 1857 'NAPOLEON' FIELD GUN

WORKHORSE OF THE BATTLEFIELD

This smoothbore 12-pounder was nearing the end of its working life by the time it became the most common piece of artillery during the American Civil War. Although rifled guns were available, it was the simplicity and reliability of the 'Napoleon' (named after Napoleon III) that saw it wheeled into action by both sides.

Firing solid shot, shells or (at close range) canister, it was versatile but also vulnerable to infantry thanks to their increased range and firepower in this period. Made of bronze (some iron guns were still in use), the 'Napoleon' was not easy to manoeuvre on the battlefield and several smaller calibres were employed that were more portable. Despite no longer being the terror of the battlefield, however, a battery of 'Napoleons' still packed a considerable punch, with an effective range of up to a mile.



Gun crews came to admire their 12-pound Napoleon guns for their reliability and effectiveness

SPENCER REPEATING RIFLE

INFANTRY FIREPOWER REVOLUTIONISED

The idea of a rifle firing more rapidly than the standard musket was tempting, but there was suspicion that it would promote wastefulness. Despite such concerns, the Spencer repeating rifle was manufactured in large quantities

and was used conspicuously at the Battle of Chickamauga and at Gettysburg. Seven rounds could be fed in at once, with the cocking of a lever both ejecting a spent cartridge case and feeding in a fresh one.



Around 200,000 Spencer repeating rifles were produced, giving the Union Army an advantage when they were available on the battlefield



A massed infantry charge still offered a tempting target for field guns, which would switch to canister at close range

COLT ARMY MODEL 1860 PISTOL

VERSATILE SIDEARM

Seeing service with infantry, artillery, cavalry and navy, Colt pistols were among the most widely used weapons of the war. The 'Army' model, a .44 calibre design, was the most common. However, loading this pistol was not as simple as the familiar Colt .45 Peacemaker, made famous in Hollywood movies. The Cold Army pistol carried paper cartridges, and these needed to be individually rammed home when loading.

Once fully loaded, the pistol could fire six shots with an range of up to 100 yards.

A modified Colt Army pistol with a 7.5-inch barrel



A British-made Bowie knife exported to the United States by George Wostenholm & Son Ltd



BOWIE KNIFE

REBEL FAVOURITE

Although the name is very familiar, a 'Bowie knife' can actually mean any large-bladed knife carried in a sheath. Originally almost identical to a butcher's knife, the Bowie was often favoured over bayonets by Confederate soldiers, and was a useful tool as well as a weapon. It pulled extra duty as a cooking implement, but was primarily ideal for hand-to-hand combat. The knife was named after Jim Bowie, who allegedly used a weapon of this type in a famous brawl known as the 'Sandbar Fight'.



Lincoln's General & Total War

In the spring of 1864 Ulysses S Grant took command of all Union armies in the field and maintained relentless pressure on the Confederacy

Words by **Mike Haskew**



he lobby of the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC, was a beehive of activity on the afternoon of 8 March 1864. Among the crowd, no one noticed the ordinary looking Union Army officer in a dishevelled uniform. With his 14-year-old son at his side, the officer listened as the clerk told him that only a room on the upper floor was available and luggage would have to be carried up several flights of stairs. The officer agreed and signed the register, 'US Grant and son, Galena, Ill'.

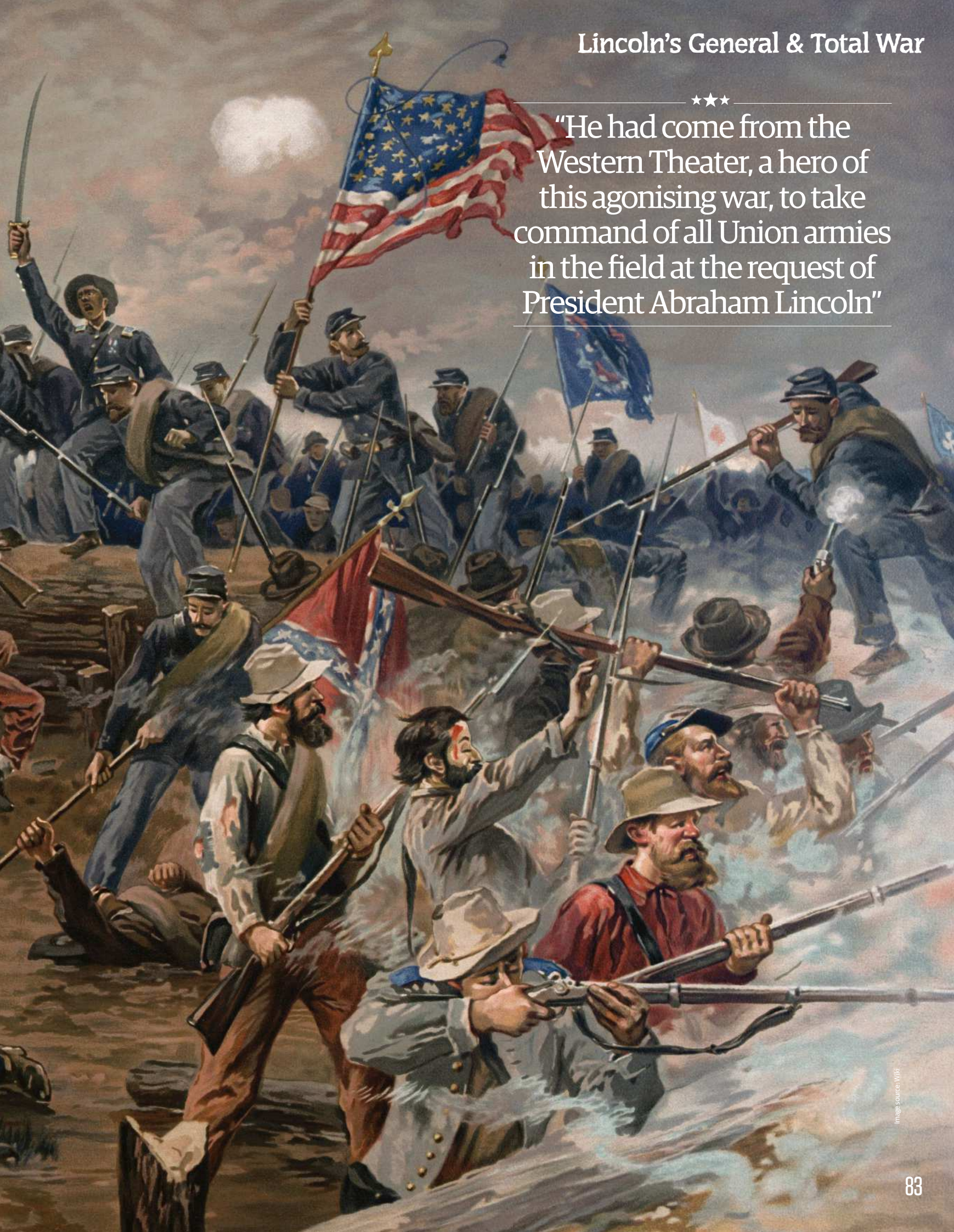
When the clerk turned and read the signature, he was jolted to action. Immediately, there was a suite available on the second floor, and he personally took the officer's bags under his arms and started up the stairs. Ulysses S Grant was no ordinary officer. He had come from the Western Theater, a hero of this agonising war, to take command of all Union armies in the field at the request of President Abraham Lincoln. Soon, Grant would command more than half a million men. Chief among his tasks was the defeat of the vaunted Confederate General Robert E Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia.

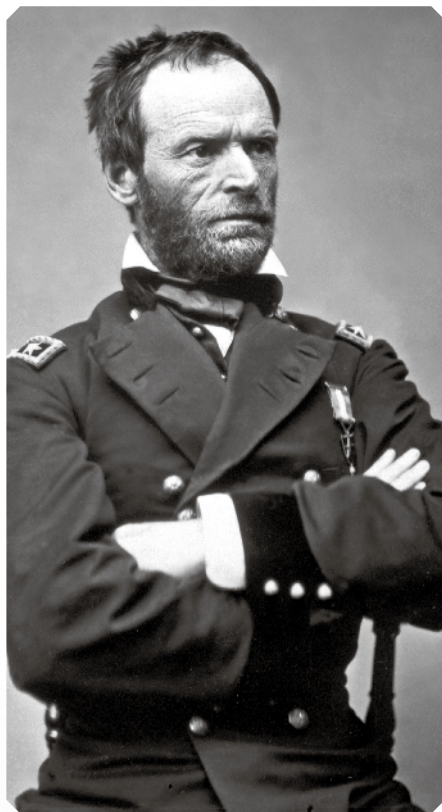
Grant, who had managed to graduate from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1843, had faced repeated failure in his life until the Civil War broke out. He had served during the Mexican War but left the army in 1854, settling on a Missouri estate owned by his father-in-law. He struggled to earn a living at the place he called Hardscrabble Farm. Things got so tough that he sold firewood on the street in St Louis. A business partnership he entered into had also failed, and so he took a job in his father-in-law's leather goods store to earn his keep.

Grant's fortunes changed in 1861. Since he had military experience, he was given a commission as a colonel in the Illinois Volunteers. Within months, he was a brigadier general. His troops won a small victory in Missouri and in February 1862, his name made national headlines with the seizure of Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee. When the Confederate commander of Fort Donelson asked for surrender terms, he was told that only 'Unconditional Surrender' was acceptable. With that, the victor was dubbed 'Unconditional Surrender Grant'.

★★★

"He had come from the Western Theater, a hero of this agonising war, to take command of all Union armies in the field at the request of President Abraham Lincoln"





William Tecumseh Sherman had a reputation for restlessness and nervous energy that exhausted those around him

DELIVERING VICTORIES

When his army was surprised at Shiloh in April 1862, Grant and General William T Sherman rallied the troops the following day and won a victory. Then, after a long campaign and siege, the city of Vicksburg fell to Grant's army on 4 July 1863, giving the Union control of the length of the Mississippi River. Grant was a national hero. His reputation was made even greater in November, when he relieved the Confederate siege of Chattanooga, Tennessee, an important rail centre. Chattanooga became the base of supply for Sherman's future Atlanta Campaign.

Meanwhile, in Washington, DC, Lincoln was frustrated with events in the Eastern Theater. Robert E Lee had defeated a number of Union commanders of the Army of the Potomac, and other forces. Lee had suffered a major defeat at Gettysburg, as General George Meade turned back a Confederate invasion of the North, but Lincoln was disappointed that Meade had failed to pursue Lee and destroy the Army of Northern Virginia. He looked to Grant to do the job.

The Army of the Potomac spent the winter at Brandy Station, Virginia, and on 10 March 1864, Grant paid Meade a visit. Meade expected to be fired and offered his resignation. Grant turned him down but did inform Meade that the overall

commander would accompany the Army of the Potomac during the spring campaign.

Unlike other Union commanders, Grant understood the advantages he possessed and intended to use them to beat Lee into submission. Grant decided that total war, inflicting hardship on the civilian population in the South and destroying its railroads, would be difficult, but this kind of campaign would lead him to victory. With its much stronger industry, the North could produce virtually limitless quantities of supplies and weapons. However, producing these materials in the South was much more difficult.

The North also had a far larger population of men to call up into the army, while Lee's ranks were shrinking. Further, Northern rail lines provided swift transportation and resupply, while Lee was constantly fighting to protect these essential routes from destruction.

When Grant suspended the programme of parole and exchange, which helped empty prisons North and South, he realised that many Union men would sit in Confederate prisons, but Rebels would no longer be released to rejoin the ranks of Confederate armies. Though this decision was criticised in the Northern newspapers and was seen as cruel, the move sped up the end of the war and probably saved lives.

Grant created a bold grand strategy to defeat the

★★★
"The North could produce virtually limitless quantities of supplies and weapons"

The City Point waterfront during the Siege of Petersburg

Confederacy. The Army of the Potomac would cross the Rappahannock River early in May and move against the Confederate capital of Richmond from the north. At the same time, the Army of the James, under General Benjamin Butler, would arrive from the south. If Lee chose to fight, he would be defeated, and if he chose to retire to defend Richmond, the Union forces would draw a noose around the city and slowly strangle the Confederate capital.

At the same time, an army under General Franz Sigel would march up the Shenandoah Valley, which was an important farming area for the Confederacy. The army would cut rail lines and destroy food and supplies intended for Lee's army. To the west, General Sherman would invade Georgia with the Union armies, defeat Confederate General Joseph Johnston's Army of Tennessee, take Atlanta, march to the port of Savannah and turn north, leaving a path of destruction through the states. Grant knew that time was on his side - a steady, relentless campaign would ultimately end in success.

BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS

In spring 1864, however, the Army of Northern Virginia was still full of fight. Numbering about

65,000 men, roughly half that of its enemy, Lee's command included General James Longstreet's I Corps, Stonewall Jackson's old II Corps now under General Richard Ewell, and the III Corps, led by General Ambrose Powell Hill.

Just across the Rappahannock River was a tangle of brambles, thickets and second-growth timber known as the Wilderness. The area was familiar to both sides, which had fought nearby at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville in 1862-63. Grant hoped to cross the difficult terrain and hit Lee's right flank on better ground. Lee, however, was aware of Grant's movement. He responded quicker than Grant anticipated, and by noon on 5 May, the two armies were locked in a death grip.

The two-day Battle of the Wilderness was clumsy and brutal. The thick forest blocked the line of sight of both armies, and restricted where units could be deployed. This removed the Union advantage in numbers, just as Lee intended. The fighting began when Confederates of Ewell's Corps crashed into Federals of General Gouverneur K Warren's V Corps along the Orange Turnpike. Quickly, the battle devolved into small groups of soldiers ambushing one another from the cover of thick woodland, some firing blindly in the thick smoke of the battlefield. The blasts

GRAND STRATEGY GRINDING

While Grant attacked Lee, Sherman advanced in the West, but Butler was bottled up at Bermuda Hundred

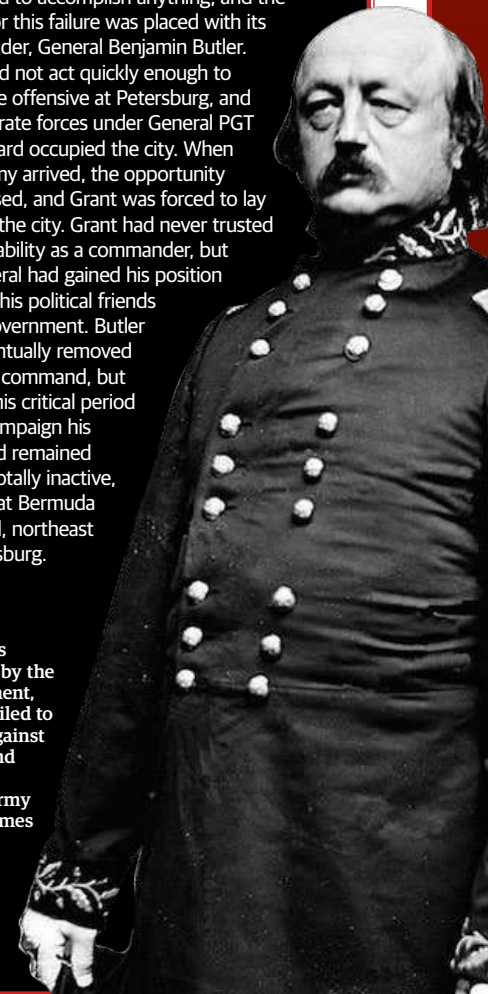
As Grant continued the Overland Campaign, General William T Sherman, his close friend, drove south from Chattanooga and successfully completed the Atlanta Campaign on 2 September 1864. This bloody campaign featured several horrific battles at New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Ezra Church, Jonesborough, and elsewhere. By autumn, Sherman was ready to launch his March to the Sea, which would end with the capture of the port of Savannah in December. First, Sherman was ordered to contribute a part of his army to deal with General John Bell Hood's invasion to the northwest from the Atlanta area. The Confederate campaign ended with defeats at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, in November and the Battle of Nashville in December.

Meanwhile, Grant had ordered the Army of the James to assault Petersburg and capture the rail centre before the Army of Northern Virginia could fortify it. However the army had failed to accomplish anything, and the blame for this failure was placed with its commander, General Benjamin Butler. Butler did not act quickly enough to begin the offensive at Petersburg, and Confederate forces under General PGT Beauregard occupied the city. When Lee's army arrived, the opportunity had passed, and Grant was forced to lay siege to the city. Grant had never trusted Butler's ability as a commander, but the general had gained his position through his political friends in the government. Butler was eventually removed from his command, but during this critical period in the campaign his army had remained almost totally inactive, held up at Bermuda Hundred, northeast of Petersburg.

Given his position by the government, Butler failed to attack against Richmond with the Union Army of the James



Union General Ulysses S Grant (left) unleashed a campaign of total war against General Robert E Lee and the Confederate armies



Images source: Wiki



The American Civil War

of artillery set the dry underbrush on fire. Many wounded men on both sides were unable to move to safety as the flames spread.

Neither side had gained the advantage when darkness halted the fighting; however, Lee's right flank was vulnerable. Reinforcements arrived throughout the night, and Grant intended to hit the Confederates again at 4am. His officers and advisors convinced him to delay the assault for an hour due to the difficulties of communicating with all their units in the thick forest. Then, at first light on 6 May, General Winfield Scott Hancock's II Corps attacked Hill's Confederates along the Plank Road and pushed the Rebels back. Longstreet strengthened Hill's weakened line and at around noon led a thunderous counter-attack. During this charge, he was struck down with a serious shoulder wound caused by friendly fire.

Hancock brought together a defensive line along the Brock Road, but in the gathering darkness General John B Gordon assaulted the exposed Union right flank, breaking through and sending panicked Union soldiers running towards Grant's headquarters. The Federals reorganised just in time to avoid disaster. The Battle of the Wilderness ended in a tactical draw with the Union racking up nearly 18,000 casualties and the Confederates 10,000. In the past after such huge losses, Union commanders had withdrawn to recover their strength. However, Grant was different. During the night he ordered the weary Union Army to march south, toward the town of Spotsylvania Court House, keeping the pressure on Lee. When the troops realised they were not retreating, a collective cheer rose from the ranks.

When Lee got word of Grant's movements, he realised that Spotsylvania Court House was the



The Battle of Cold Harbor was a stunning setback for General Grant and the Union forces during the Overland Campaign

Union objective. If Grant succeeded in taking the crossroads town, the Army of the Potomac would be positioned between Lee and the capital, Richmond. The race was on, and Lee managed to reach Spotsylvania Court House first.

For two weeks the armies fought at Spotsylvania. The Confederates had built fortifications made of timber and stood firm against early assaults by Hancock's Corps on 9-10 May. On the 10th, Colonel Emory Upton led 12 Union regiments across open ground, fighting through furious artillery fire and battling hand-to-hand with the defenders of an earthwork known as the 'Mule Shoe'. The attackers were thrown back. A major cavalry clash broke out at Yellow Tavern on the 11th, ending without result,

except for the death of Lee's trusted cavalry commander, General JEB Stuart.

That same day, Grant sent a telegram to a worried Lincoln, stating, "We have now ended the sixth day of very heavy fighting... the result up to this time is much in our favor. I intend to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."

On 12 May, Hancock launched a huge wave of 20,000 soldiers at the Confederate breastworks, fighting for 22 hours. The fighting was particularly brutal in an area that became known as the 'Bloody Angle'. Lee rode forward during the day, exposing himself to enemy fire, intending to personally lead a Confederate counter-attack. However, the soldiers refused to advance until the old commander was led

THE HAUNTING OF COLD HARBOR

The slaughter of Cold Harbor, during the Overland Campaign, disturbed Ulysses S Grant for the rest of his life

On the evening of their tragic charge at Cold Harbor, Union soldiers were aware that the attack would lead to huge casualties and that many of them would not survive the dangerous advance against the enemy. Lieutenant Colonel Horace Porter, a member of General Grant's staff, decided to visit the soldiers that evening. He later recalled, "As I came near one of the regiments that was making preparations for the next morning's assault, I noticed many of the soldiers had taken off their coats, and seemed to be engaged in sewing up rents in them... On closer examination it was found that the men were calmly writing their names and home addresses on slips of paper, and pinning them on the backs of their coats, so that their dead bodies might be recognized

upon the field, and their fate made known to their families at home."

Years later in 1885, Grant was dying of throat cancer. The former two-term president struggled to complete his two-volume memoir, which he hoped would provide an income for his family after his death. While writing, he accepted the horror of Cold Harbor and concluded, "I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was made... At Cold Harbor no advantage whatever was gained to compensate for the heavy loss we sustained." The commander's position had been difficult, and he was criticised by some in the North as 'Butcher Grant'. The old general carried the scars of so many lost lives to his own grave.



Ulysses S Grant built this cabin for his family on the Missouri homestead he dubbed Hardscrabble Farm

★★★ "Fighting was brutal in an area that became known as the 'Bloody Angle'"

to safety. Then, with General John Bell Hood leading from the front, the Rebel attack threw the Union troops back while the Confederate flanks stood firm. After an exhausting day, Lee ordered a general retreat to a new line of defence.

Grant probed the Confederate defences, and in a series of attacks and counterattacks over several days, Lee's line stood firm. When Grant realised that his attacks were having no effect, he again ordered his army to march south. Two weeks at Spotsylvania Court House had cost the armies a combined 30,000 killed, wounded, and captured, 18,000 of these were Union losses. As the casualty rolls lengthened, Grant remained determined to continue with his plan.

On 21 May, the Union forces crossed the North Anna River, and Lee was again forced to place his army between the enemy and the Confederate capital. Grant knew that the Confederate defensive position at Ox Ford was too strong and chose not to attack. The Union Army crossed the Pamunkey River on 26 May, still pressing toward Richmond. Lee stayed in step, building a new defensive position along Totopotomoy Creek. The two armies brushed against one another with no result at nearby Bethesda Church on 30 May. Both armies now stretched toward Cold Harbor, which was just 16 kilometres (ten miles) northeast of Richmond.

Situated near the old 1862 battlefield of Gaines' Mill, Cold Harbor was yet another small unremarkable crossroads town. However, it gained a terrible place in the history of the Civil War when the armies gathered there in the spring of 1864. Hancock's Corps failed to reach the field on 2 June as Grant had intended, forcing a tragic delay to his planned attack. The day-long wait for Hancock enabled Lee's weakened forces to dig in at Cold Harbor. On 3 June Grant, possibly in outright frustration at the lost opportunity, ordered three Union corps, numbering 50,000 men, toward the Confederate defences. The result of this attack was disastrous.

Huge numbers of brave Union men fell at Cold Harbor. One Confederate recalled that they died "like rows of blocks or bricks pushed over by striking against one another." Rebel General Evander Law summarised: "It was not war; it was murder." A single Union brigade lost 1,000 men in only 20 minutes. Estimates of the day's loss to the Army of the Potomac range as high as 7,000. For nine more days, the two armies faced one another at Cold Harbor, with Union casualties near 13,000. Grant still persevered in his plan.

Over 170,000 soldiers took part in the Battle of Cold Harbor, which ended in over 17,000 casualties

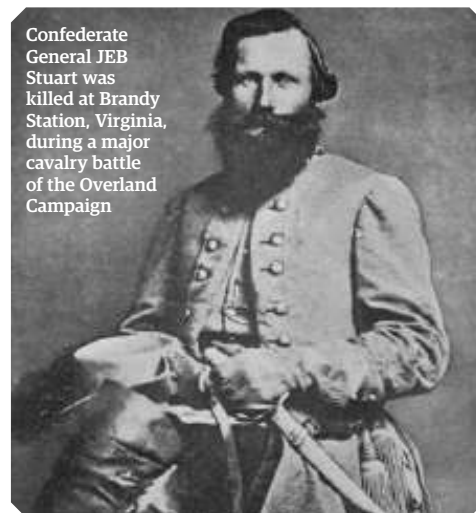
On the night of 12 June, Grant pulled the Army of the Potomac out of its deployed formation and quickly moved towards the James River on his right flank. His forces crossed using boats and long foot bridges. Grant did not turn directly toward Richmond, and instead headed for the rail centre of Petersburg, 37 kilometres (23 miles) to the south. His aim was to cut supply lines

leading to the capital city, Richmond. The move made Lee's greatest fear a reality. The loss of Petersburg would doom the Confederate capital and probably the entire war effort in the east.

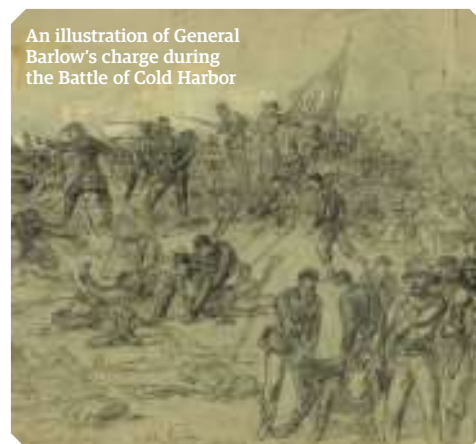
Through mid-June, Lee avoided a decisive battle, and he prevented Grant from seizing Petersburg entirely. Still, now he was forced to defend both Petersburg and Richmond.

The Overland Campaign had cost the Army of the Potomac 60,000 casualties and the Army of Northern Virginia an irreplaceable 35,000, but the Rebels had been brought to ground. The race for Richmond was over, and Grant redefined his offensive. He besieged Petersburg, pinning Lee down for nine months in a grinding defence that eventually led to the fall of Richmond and victory.

Confederate General JEB Stuart was killed at Brandy Station, Virginia, during a major cavalry battle of the Overland Campaign



An illustration of General Barlow's charge during the Battle of Cold Harbor



Union troops used pontoon bridges such as this one across the James River during the Overland Campaign



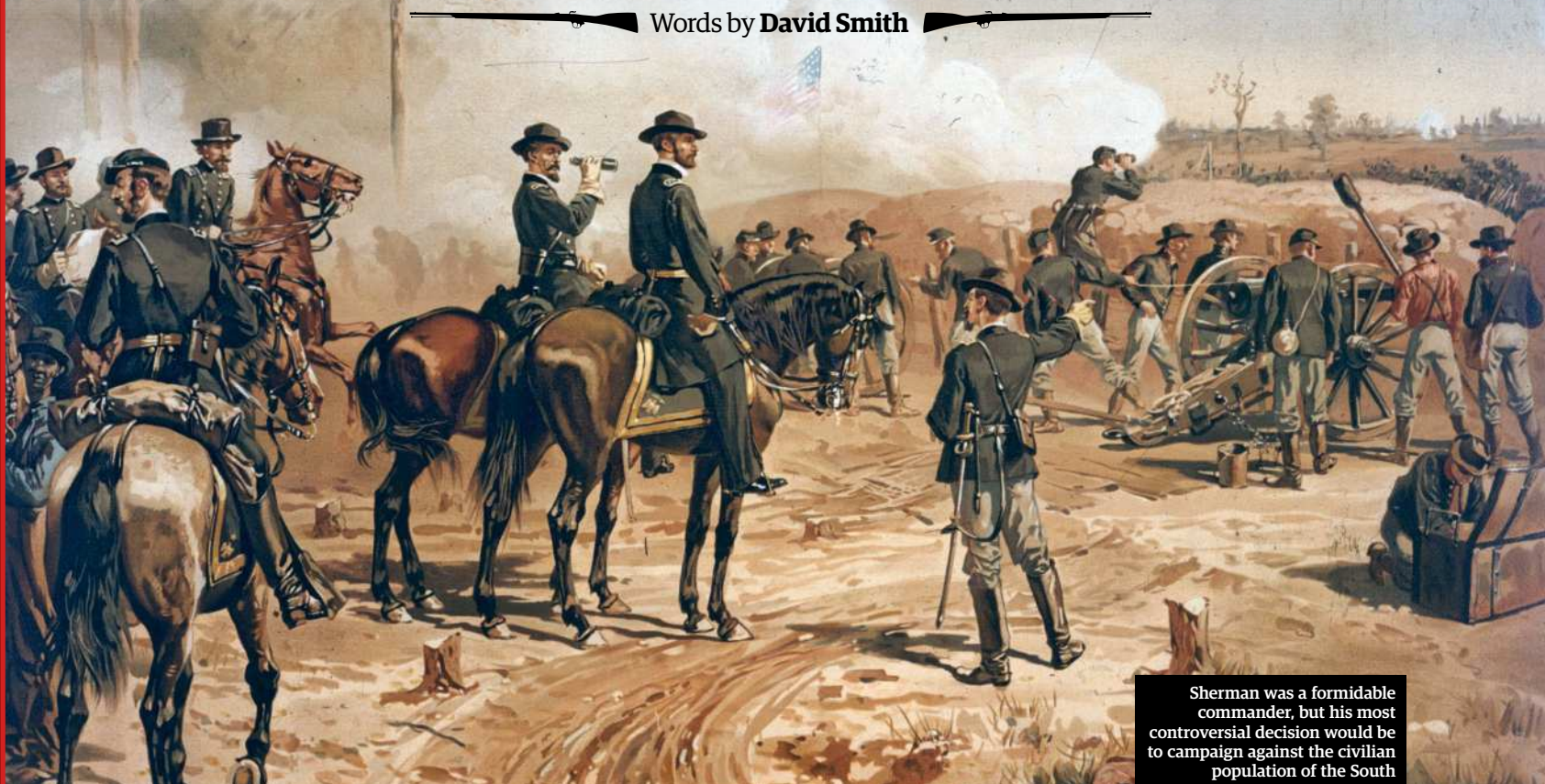
Images source: Wiki, Getty



The March to the Sea

On 15 November 1864, a Union army set out from Atlanta on what became one of the war's most controversial military campaigns

Words by David Smith



Sherman was a formidable commander, but his most controversial decision would be to campaign against the civilian population of the South



he struggle for Atlanta had dragged on throughout the summer of 1864. Confederate forces under General Joseph E Johnston had repeatedly retreated when faced with William T Sherman's Union army, leaving both sides frustrated.

In the North there was a major fear that the population would grow tired of the long war. The pattern of costly battles, such as at Shiloh, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and others, showed no signs of ending. Half a million men had died in the fighting so far.

As well as the long campaign against Atlanta, Ulysses S Grant was bogged down at Petersburg,

Virginia. The war seemed to have no end in sight. Adding to the pressure was a presidential campaign, with Abraham Lincoln seeking re-election. Democratic candidate George Brinton McClellan, a former commander of Union forces, was running against Lincoln on a so-called 'peace-platform'. There was a possibility that Lincoln could be defeated and a peace agreed.

The Confederate armies had their own worries to deal with. Johnston was unwilling to stand and fight and it looked as if he might eventually give up Atlanta without a battle. Despite his success in dragging out the campaign at this critical point, the Confederate leadership could not cope with a seemingly endless defensive.

Johnston was replaced as commander of the Army of Tennessee by the firebrand John Bell Hood, who immediately began a series of costly and unsuccessful offensives. The battered Confederate army was forced to evacuate Atlanta. "Atlanta is ours" Sherman telegraphed the president, "and fairly won".

With tension eased by the capture of Atlanta, Sherman pondered his next move. The following campaign would win him both fame and infamy.

THE HARD HAND OF WAR

Sherman's idea was to march his army through Georgia. It was to be a deliberate and calculated act to destroy the state's war-making capabilities.

In a telegram to Grant, he wrote of his plan for the “utter destruction of its roads, houses, and people,” and how this would “cripple their military resources”.

Much has been written of Sherman's decision to confront civilians with the realities of war, but he was willing to consider less harsh methods to achieve his goal. Writing to Governor Joseph Brown, he offered to march peacefully through the state if Georgia would withdraw from the rebellion. If it did not, then Sherman would “be compelled to go ahead, devastating the State in its whole length and breadth”.

Sherman was still waiting for permission from Grant to begin his march, and Hood had 40,000 soldiers in the vicinity to stop his progress. On 21 September, Hood took the decision to attack Sherman's supply lines, forcing plans for the march to be halted, as Union troops backtracked through the state to counter Hood's move. A frustrated Sherman persuaded Grant that chasing Hood was pointless.

On 2 November, he was granted permission to abandon the pursuit of Hood and march to the coast. It resulted in a peculiar spectacle, as Sherman himself fully appreciated: “Two hostile armies marching in opposite directions, each in the full belief that it was achieving a final and conclusive result in a great war.”

★★★ “The Confederates could not protect every potential target along the Union march”

FORCES IN GEORGIA

The idea of marching hundreds of kilometres through hostile territory, with no communications, no supply line and no chance of rescue appeared daunting. It was not a plan for the faint-hearted, or for the injured. A full medical examination weeded out almost 800 weak and sickly men before the march even started.

The army was organised into two wings, each of two corps - XIV and XX Corps for the left wing, XV and XVII Corps for the right. Sherman knew that Confederate resistance would be limited and he intended to make it even less effective through deceptive tactics. Each wing would threaten a town or city, but if Confederate forces

massed to resist, the wings would shift course to a different destination. With limited manpower, the Confederates could not hope to protect every potential target along the Union march.

Each wing of the army numbered more than 27,000 men, and there was also a 5,000-strong cavalry division, commanded by the aggressive Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, known as ‘kill-cavalry’.

With Hood taking the only major Confederate army available to protect Georgia out of the picture, defence was left to whatever units could be scraped together. A cavalry force of 3,500 under ‘Fighting Joe’ Wheeler was potentially the biggest problem, if it could avoid the superior numbers of Union cavalry protecting Sherman's army. There was also state militia, some line regiments, a little artillery and a selection of largely untrained cadets. Scattered around the state, they were unable to do much other than fall back in the face of an overwhelming enemy.

THE MARCH BEGINS

Sherman's men travelled light. Only 20 days' worth of rations were carried in the long wagon trains that followed the roads out of Atlanta in the middle of November, heading southeast. Only five days' worth of forage was carried for the thousands of animals used to haul those wagons - six mules for each one of the 2,500 wagons,



The destruction of railroads (twisting the rails into ‘Sherman's neckties’) was one of the main activities on the march

Images source: Getty Images



The American Civil War

and two horses for each of the 600 ambulances. One cannon was taken for every 1,000 men, but Sherman was not planning any major battles.

Before leaving, Atlanta was destroyed, with a fire adding to the devastation on the night of 14 November. Sherman's men then began to cut a path of destruction through Georgia. The railroad was a major target, and timber sleepers were ripped up, piled into a bonfire and set on fire. The rails themselves were then heated on the fires until they softened. At this temperature they were twisted or bent beyond hope of repair. Crops, livestock and other supplies were stolen or destroyed and slaves were freed.

The Confederate response was a desperate call for the civilian population to rise up. The first serious fighting of the march took place on 22 November, when a mixed bag of around 3,000 Confederates, including state militia, stumbled upon a Union force half its size. Encouraged by their superior numbers, the Confederates chose to attack in what is known as the Battle of Griswoldville. The untested Southern troops, many of them boys or old men, launched a frontal assault against trained and entrenched Union troops armed with repeating rifles. The battle was one-sided, resulting in around 600 Confederate casualties, against less than 100 for the Union. It had been a show of resistance at least, but achieved nothing.

THE 'BUMMERS'

Sherman ordered his men to "forage liberally on the country", but he could not risk letting his entire army of 60,000 men loose. Foraging parties of around 30 to 50 men were organised by each brigade, with a single officer to maintain some order. Private property was not supposed to be entered, and civilians were to be left with enough food for the winter, but the men were also to destroy most of what they could not carry back to the marching columns.

Known as 'bummers', Sherman's foragers earned a dark reputation among the Southern population. Private properties were wrecked and possessions stolen or destroyed, and Southerners lived in fear of violent assault.

Whether Sherman chose to ignore reports of such activity, or whether he thought it was nothing more than the South deserved, he spoke highly of the foraging parties. They would set out in the morning on foot and usually return in the evening riding stolen animals.

Before long, there was just too much for the army to take, and massive amounts of provisions were left behind or simply destroyed. Sherman would later estimate that his army had done \$100

million worth of damage to the state, with only 20 per cent of that actually used by the Union troops. "The remainder", he admitted, "is simple waste and destruction."

THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE

As Sherman's men made progress, calls for Hood to return with the Army of Tennessee grew

desperate, but he had other ideas. With just over 40,000 men, he intended to take on Union forces in Tennessee, capturing Nashville and moving northwards. He hoped this would force Sherman to turn his forces around.

The chances of this succeeding were slim, and they were not helped by Hood's reckless handling of his army. At Franklin on 30

November, he launched a suicidal frontal assault against prepared defences, taking 7,000 casualties, including 12 generals. His weakened army was then overwhelmed and shattered during two days of fierce fighting at the Battle of Nashville on 15-16 December.

Whether Hood's men would have been strong enough to oppose Sherman's march is debatable, but they would certainly have been able to offer more resistance. Most Union troops marching through Georgia had little more to worry about than covering their 24 kilometres (15 miles) a day.

Some historians believe Sherman's march is one of the first uses of a 'total war' strategy targeting civilians

SHERMAN'S MARCH

The two wings of Sherman's army made easy progress through Georgia, going where they wanted, when they wanted

Although some talked gloomily of the orders to spread destruction and terror, Sherman had no doubt that his men would succeed. The march was easier during its first stage. With Atlanta located in the Piedmont plateau, which featured low rolling hills, the ground was firm. The campaign was also much different from usual army life, which kept the spirits of the marching columns high. Some of the men on the march talked of it in terms of a pleasure excursion.

During the second phase of the march, the landscape became bleaker as the plateau gave way to the coastal plain. Sandy and then marshy ground made progress difficult, and many soldiers noted that the march had become tiresome.

THE SECOND STAGE

It had taken just ten days to cover half the distance to Savannah, and one Union captain commented that it was "the most gigantic pleasure excursion ever planned". Even the men in the foraging parties, the most obvious

The state capital

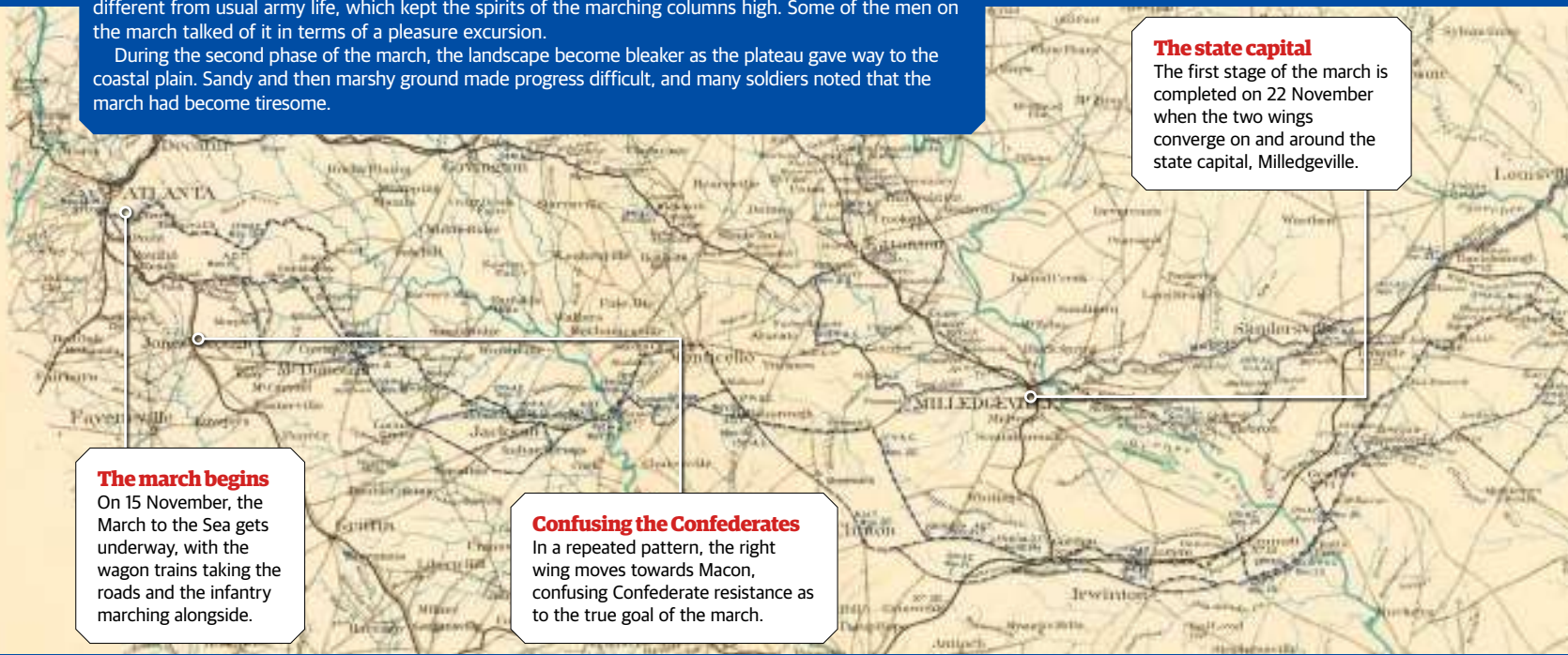
The first stage of the march is completed on 22 November when the two wings converge on and around the state capital, Milledgeville.

The march begins

On 15 November, the March to the Sea gets underway, with the wagon trains taking the roads and the infantry marching alongside.

Confusing the Confederates

In a repeated pattern, the right wing moves towards Macon, confusing Confederate resistance as to the true goal of the march.



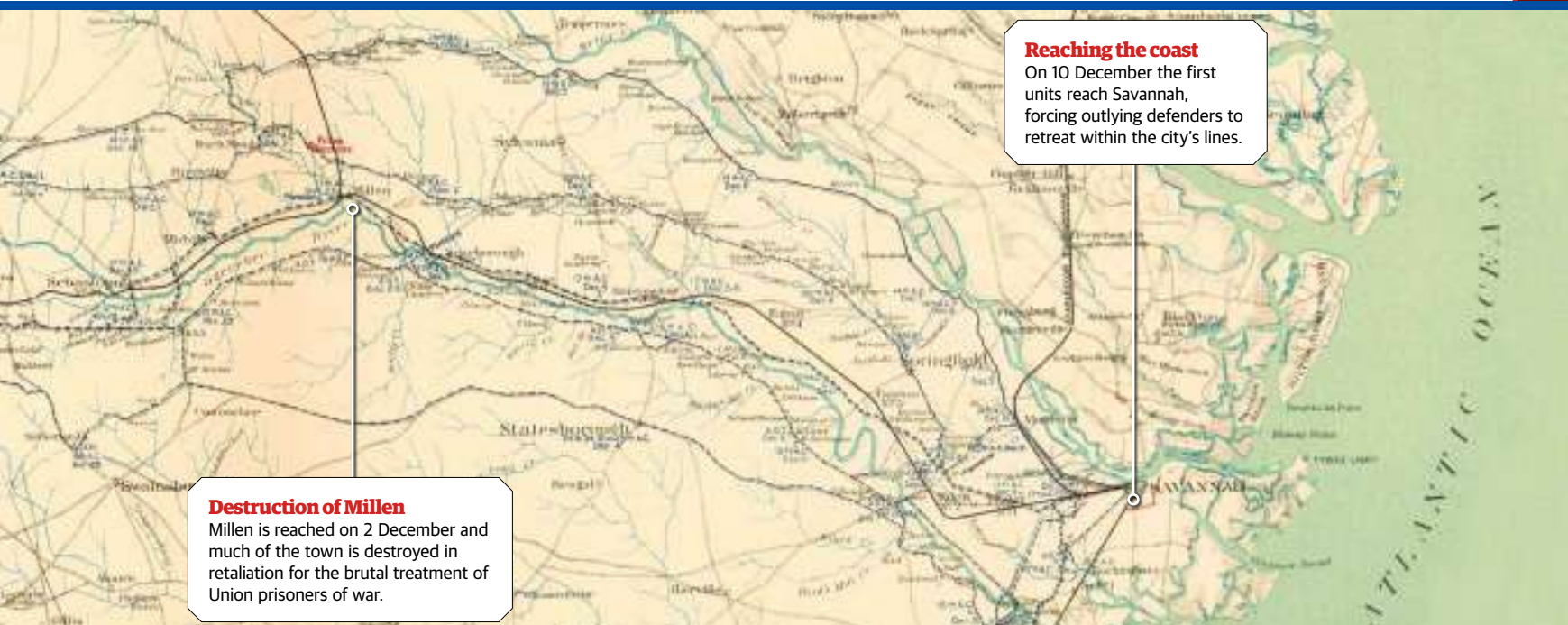
Images source: Alamy, Wiki

★★★

“The untested Southern troops, many of them boys or old men, launched a frontal assault against trained and entrenched Union troops”



Sherman's March to the Sea was characterised by the destruction of rail lines and property. The railroads were sabotaged and stores burned, while slaves were set free by the Union forces



Reaching the coast

On 10 December the first units reach Savannah, forcing outlying defenders to retreat within the city's lines.

Destruction of Millen

Millen is reached on 2 December and much of the town is destroyed in retaliation for the brutal treatment of Union prisoners of war.



targets for Confederate resistance, were largely unscathed. Only 64 of them were killed during the march.

Still, there was trepidation in the North. With Sherman out of contact there was no way of knowing if he was making smooth progress or getting caught up in guerrilla actions. There would be no firm news until Sherman reached the coast and re-established communication.

The second stage of the march began with a move towards Augusta. Once more, this was a deception to draw Confederate defenders, and Union cavalry under Kilpatrick moved towards the town to strengthen the plan. In clashes with defending Confederate cavalry, Kilpatrick's men were forced into a series of retreats. It was the most effective resistance of the entire march, but it changed nothing. A corridor was being swept through the state, with railroads a telegraph lines being destroyed. The Union troops also targeted any building that could be "easily converted" to military use.

By late November the optimistic mood among Sherman's men was starting to fade. The land on which they were travelling was now marshy, with thick pine forests. Sherman later wrote about the scent of pine wood on the campfires at night, but his men were not impressed: "I never saw such a lonesome place," an Illinois captain remarked, "Not a bird, not a sign of animal life, but the shrill notes of the tree frog... no vegetable life but just grass and pitch pine."

Kilpatrick's cavalry fought once more with Confederates at the Battle of Waynesborough, driving them away. Kilpatrick then hoped to rescue captive Union soldiers at the notorious prison at Millen, but the inmates had already been moved by the time he arrived. The Union troops noted the appalling conditions of the camp and a burial pit holding 650 bodies.

THE FALL OF SAVANNAH

Pitched battles did not often occur on the march. On 1 December a captain noted that he had not



Above: Although Sherman was not keen on freed slaves following his army, an estimated 25,000 flocked to his columns during the course of the march

heard enemy gunfire for the previous nine days. Thoughts were turning to Savannah, where a garrison of around 10,000 was expected to offer at least some resistance. Before getting there, communications needed to be reopened, and that required the capture of Fort McAllister.

Originally developed to defend the coast from Union shipping, Fort McAllister had not been designed to stop an assault from the land. It was manned by just 150 Confederates, but it still represented an obstacle. On 13 December, nine Union regiments stormed the fort and took it in 15 minutes. Sherman was then able to speak with the captain of the Union steamer *Dandelion*, who could carry news of his progress to the North.

Savannah now waited, and its fall was inevitable. Despite a huge series of defensive works, including

81 pieces of artillery, there was no hope of holding out for long. Only the need to bring up heavy guns (the army had marched with only field pieces) delayed Sherman's assault, and Confederate forces took the opportunity to quietly evacuate the city on the night of 20 December. In a light-hearted, almost giddy telegram, Sherman offered Savannah to the president as a Christmas gift. Lincoln replied with heartfelt thanks.

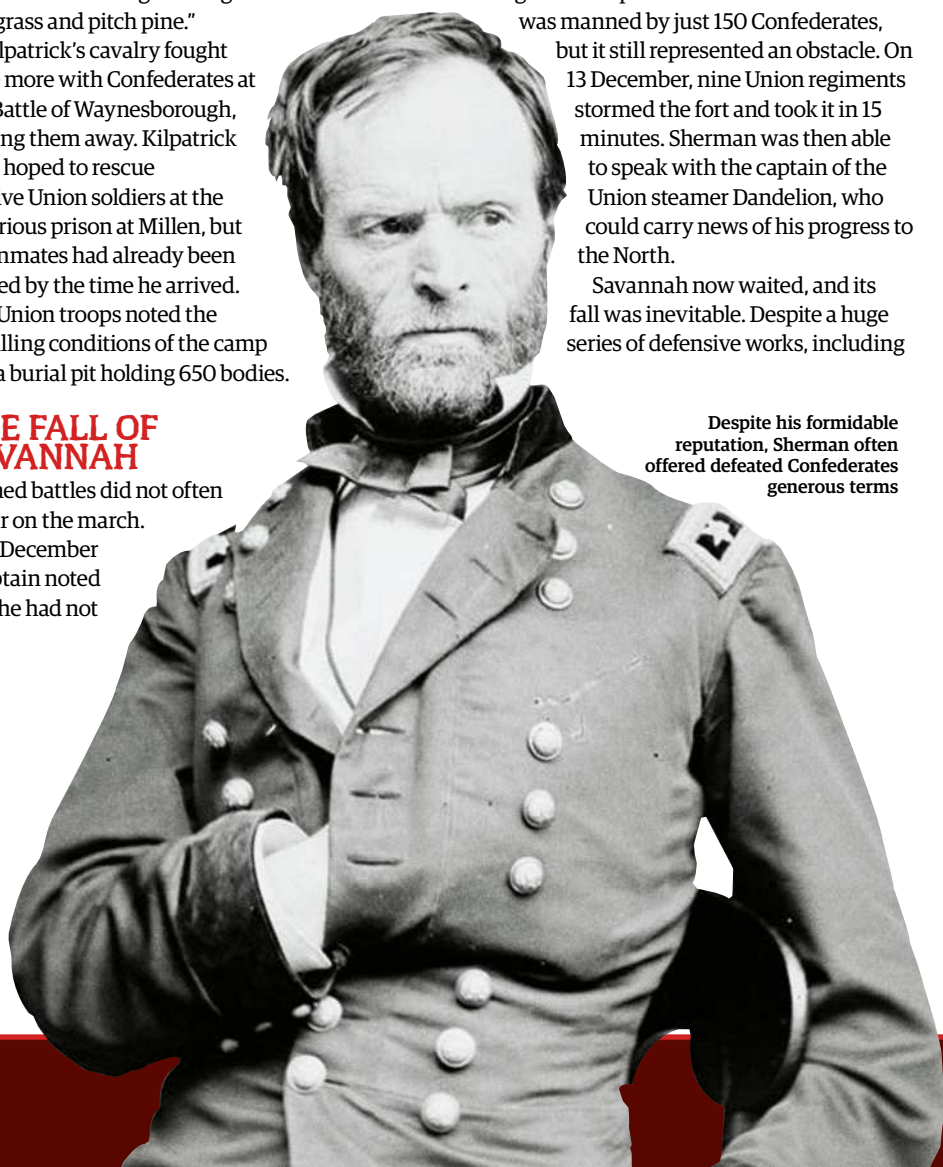
The 'March to the Sea' had been completed, at a cost of just 1,888 men killed, wounded in action, captured or missing. Only 32 deaths had been suffered due to disease, testimony to the wisdom of undertaking a health check of the men before starting the march, and also to the benefits of outdoor life and regular exercise. Sherman, however, was far from done, and controversy over his epic march was just beginning.

SHERMAN MARCHES ON

Progress through Georgia had been so easy, the Union general determined to repeat the process in South Carolina. Regarded as the seat of secessionism by the North, loathing towards the state was far greater than it had been towards Georgia. This second march began on 1 February 1865, and the message to the Confederate states was clear. In case it needed underlining, Lincoln made a speech to Congress in which he stated, "We are gaining strength, and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely."

The South, on the other hand, was losing men, supplies and its vital railroads and factories. In South Carolina, the destruction wrought by Sherman's men was even worse. An unusually harsh winter barely slowed them as they bridged rivers and trudged through mud at a remorseless 16 kilometres (ten miles) a day. The march then continued into North Carolina, but much of its fury had ceased as the war stumbled to its end. The ultimate aim, that of linking up with Grant's

Despite his formidable reputation, Sherman often offered defeated Confederates generous terms



The interior of Fort McAllister, whose heavy earth walls were meant to absorb naval gunfire rather than withstand an infantry assault



Sherman's march was 285 miles long, between Atlanta and Savannah, and resulted in 3,000 total casualties

men besieging Petersburg, was never realised, as Grant achieved victory before Sherman could arrive on the battlefield.

By the end of Sherman's controversial march, the American Civil War was effectively over.

However, anger towards the North would remain in the South for years.

Much of this was made worse by the harsh treatment of Confederate states by Sherman's men. There was concern that a never-ending guerrilla war might break out, with small pockets of committed Confederates engaging in resistance-style sabotage and ambushes. This idea was embraced by the Confederate cavalry commander Nathan Bedford Forrest, who took part in Hood's disastrous Tennessee campaign. "Be not allured by the siren song of peace," he implored the South. "You can never again unite with those who have murdered your sons, outraged your helpless families, and with demonic malice wantonly destroyed your property, and now seek to make slaves of you."

Forrest's words were in vain, but anger over the March to the Sea would last for decades.

THE VERDICT

History has not viewed Sherman kindly

Sherman's marches have been condemned by some as war crimes, although events in the 20th century have cast new light on his actions. The march through Georgia now seems positively tame when compared to the deliberate targeting of civilian populations in World War II, and unleashing foragers on the countryside seems mild compared to the dropping of atomic bombs.

Sherman had no doubt that he was actually waging a more humane form of warfare. Destroying the ability of a region to support an army was better, in his mind, than fighting that army and inflicting 15,000 casualties. While marching through South Carolina, he made this clear, commenting to one lady that he was destroying her plantation so that he wouldn't be forced to kill her husband on the battlefield.

He was also acting within the law, under the terms of the Lieber Code, created by the legal scholar Franz Lieber and established in 1863. This code said that "to save the country is paramount to all other considerations" and this allowed for acts such as the destruction of civilian property. Sherman, in any case, believed the war itself was an illegal act and that it needed to be ended as quickly and as ruthlessly as possible.

Many people will never be convinced that the march was anything other than criminal, and Sherman certainly did intend to inflict suffering on the civilian population of the South. He had left no doubt on that score when he asked Grant for permission to start his march, back in October 1864. "I can make the march," he had written to Grant in a telegram, "and make Georgia howl".

Sherman marched on into South Carolina in 1865, wreaking even more destruction, including the burning of McPhersonville





State of Play: 1865

With the fourth year of the American Civil War, the Confederacy's days are numbered, as Union forces march to victory

Words by **Mike Haskew**



In the spring of 1865, Robert E Lee's Army of Northern Virginia is finally forced out of its defensive position around the rail centre of Petersburg and the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, a few miles to the north. The final campaign of the American Civil War begins as three Union armies, under the overall command of General Ulysses S Grant, chase the ragged Confederate forces west towards the village of Appomattox Court House, where they raise the white flag. Lee's army suffers a huge defeat at Five Forks, on 1 April. Then, at Sailor's Creek five days later, a quarter of the army, including six generals, surrenders. Lee's effort to reach the rail line at Lynchburg is defeated, and he surrenders at Appomattox Court House on Palm Sunday, 9 April 1865.

Confederate diplomats, meanwhile, journey to Washington, DC to discuss peace terms with President Lincoln. However, the talks break down and the fighting continues. To the south, General William T Sherman leads his large Union army north into the Carolinas, chasing the remnants of three Confederate armies under General Joseph E Johnston. Sherman accepts Johnston's surrender near Durham, North Carolina, on 18 April. Fighting continues, particularly in the west, but fighting stops in the coming weeks, effectively ending the Civil War.

While the war draws to an end, President Lincoln discusses his vision for reconciliation and the restoration of the Union. However, he is shot by assassin John Wilkes Booth on 14 April, dying the following morning. The South is destined to endure a harsh period of Reconstruction.



The McLean House in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, is the site of Robert E Lee's surrender to Ulysses S Grant

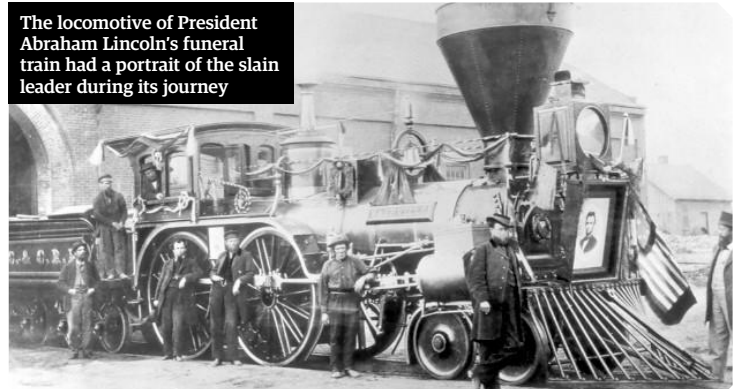


Last Confederate Field Army Surrenders

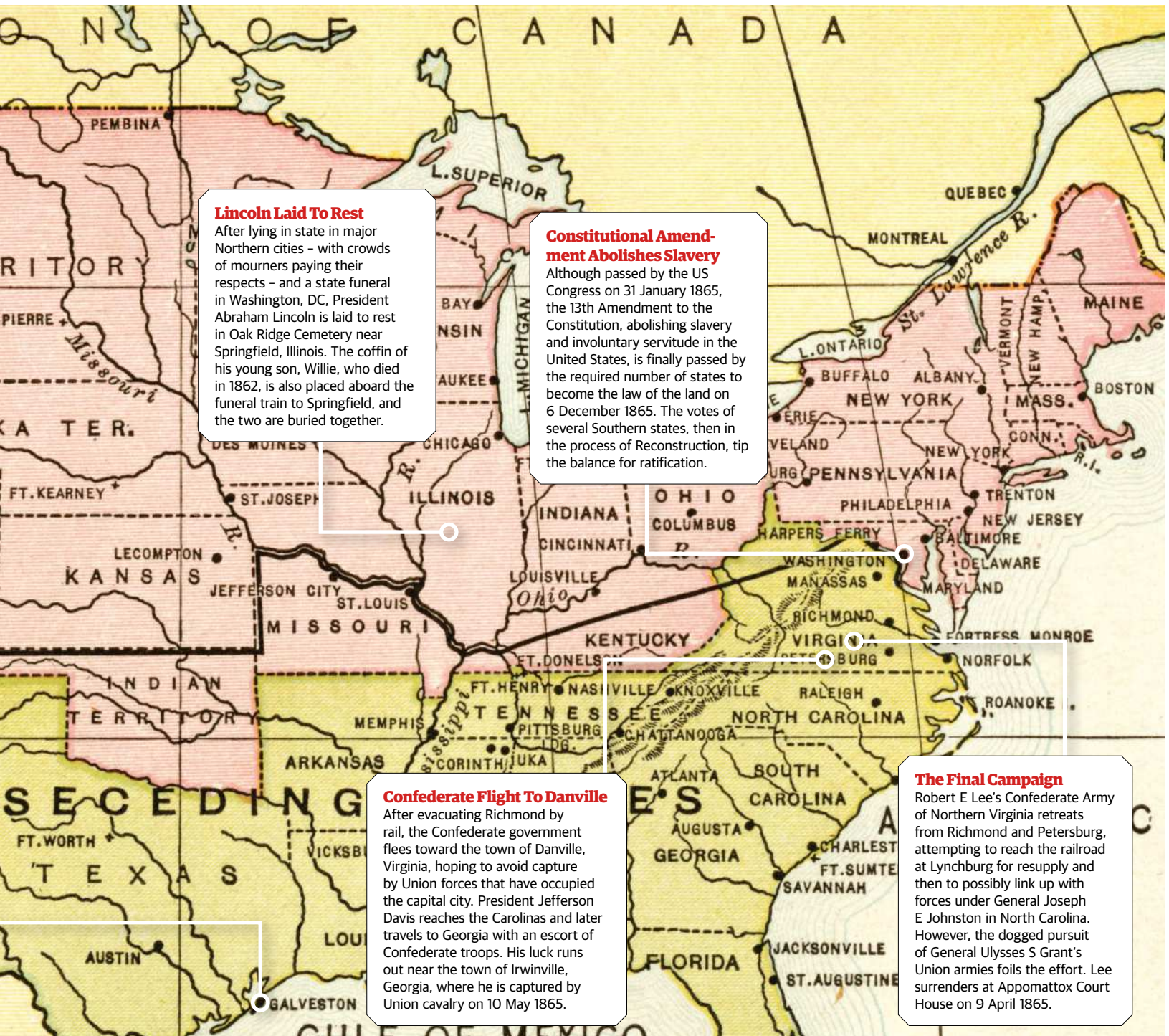
On 2 June 1865, General Edmund Kirby Smith - the last Confederate general officer with a major field army under his command - surrenders his force to Union authorities at Galveston, Texas. After escaping to Mexico and then Cuba to avoid arrest, Smith eventually returns to the US after his wife concludes peace negotiations. He later becomes a university professor in Tennessee.



Jefferson Davis, former president of the Confederacy, was confined to prison after his capture but eventually released



The locomotive of President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train had a portrait of the slain leader during its journey



Lincoln Laid To Rest

After lying in state in major Northern cities – with crowds of mourners paying their respects – and a state funeral in Washington, DC, President Abraham Lincoln is laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery near Springfield, Illinois. The coffin of his young son, Willie, who died in 1862, is also placed aboard the funeral train to Springfield, and the two are buried together.

Constitutional Amendment Abolishes Slavery

Although passed by the US Congress on 31 January 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States, is finally passed by the required number of states to become the law of the land on 6 December 1865. The votes of several Southern states, then in the process of Reconstruction, tip the balance for ratification.

Confederate Flight To Danville

After evacuating Richmond by rail, the Confederate government flees toward the town of Danville, Virginia, hoping to avoid capture by Union forces that have occupied the capital city. President Jefferson Davis reaches the Carolinas and later travels to Georgia with an escort of Confederate troops. His luck runs out near the town of Irwinville, Georgia, where he is captured by Union cavalry on 10 May 1865.

The Final Campaign

Robert E Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia retreats from Richmond and Petersburg, attempting to reach the railroad at Lynchburg for resupply and then to possibly link up with forces under General Joseph E Johnston in North Carolina. However, the dogged pursuit of General Ulysses S Grant's Union armies foils the effort. Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House on 9 April 1865.



The city of Richmond burns as Confederate troops and civilians flee the capital in advance of approaching Union troops

Last Days of the Confederacy

In the spring of 1865, Confederate forces under General Robert E Lee and Joseph Johnston finally surrendered to the overwhelming might of the Union armies

Words by **Mike Haskew**



he landscape around Petersburg, Virginia, was desolate and scarred. For nine months General Robert E Lee and the battered Confederate

Army of Northern Virginia, defended a line that eventually stretched an astounding 85 kilometres (53 miles) from Richmond south to Petersburg and beyond. This had protected the rail and road terminus, which were a lifeline of supply from further south.

Union General Ulysses S Grant had been frustrated in early to mid-1864, after repeatedly failing to capture Richmond. Each thrust of the Overland Campaign, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, along the North Anna River, and Cold Harbor, had been countered by Lee. Weeks of bloody but inconclusive battles had weakened both armies. Grant now changed

his focus to Petersburg, which was south of the James River. With Petersburg in Union hands, the Confederates would have to abandon Richmond and then fight against overwhelming odds.

However, quick movements by Confederate forces and a string of Union blunders had prevented the Federals from capturing Petersburg. By the end of June, the war of rapid movement had become a siege. Lee commanded barely 36,000 men at Petersburg and 20,000 in Richmond, while the Union army numbered more than 100,000. For months, fighting moved in fits and starts. At times, troops on both sides using pick and shovel more than the rifle and cannon. Grant forced Lee to extend his defensive lines, moving south and west to cut the roads and rail lines into the city.

Meanwhile, Union General William T Sherman had made good on his promise to "make Georgia

howl." He had ended his destructive march from Atlanta to the sea, capturing the port of Savannah in December. He sent a message to President Lincoln: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition and also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

In late-January 1865, Sherman turned his armies north into the Carolinas. Standing in his way was the ragged Confederate Army of Tennessee under General Joseph E Johnston. This force at times numbered fewer than 20,000 soldiers and faced up to 90,000 Union troops. On 3 February, Sherman's troops brushed aside an effort to drive the Union right flank back. Two weeks later, Union troops captured Columbia, South Carolina's state capital.

On 22 February, the port of Wilmington, North Carolina, fell to Union forces, and troops under General John M Schofield advanced inland against Confederates under General Braxton Bragg. On 16 March, a sharp clash at Averasborough delayed the Union advance for 48 hours. Three days later, Bragg joined Johnston at Bentonville, with their combined strength totalling 21,000. Johnston attacked, driving Union forces back. Rapid reinforcement stopped the Confederates, and Johnston held his ground before a flanking movement forced his retreat towards the North Carolina capital.

Johnston fell back to Greensboro and met with Confederate President Jefferson Davis on 12-13 April. He admitted: "Our people are tired of war, feel themselves whipped, and will not fight [...] My small force is melting away like



Union troops brought forward a huge mortar nicknamed the 'Dictator' to bombard Confederate positions during the siege of Petersburg



Union soldiers rest in the trenches before Petersburg during a lull in the fighting amid the nine-month siege

snow before the Sun." On the 18th, Johnston met with Sherman at Bennett Place, near Durham Station. The western forces of the Confederacy were defeated, but there was still widespread confusion. Sherman's surrender terms were generous, and full of political agreements that he had no authority to offer. The commanders met again on 26 April, confirmed the military terms of surrender, and it was accomplished.

The drama of the endgame in Virginia had played out by that time. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia were steadily being strangled as Grant's forces slugged their way around the Confederate right flank. Starvation and disease wracked the army, and from mid-February to mid-March 2,934 men had deserted. General John B Gordon, commander of the II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, asked Lee: "What, then, is to be done, general?" He replied that there seemed to be but one thing we could do - fight. To stand still was death. It could only be death if we fought and failed." Grant knew this as well. Lee would eventually have to abandon his trenches at Petersburg and fight for his life.

Following Lee's directive, Gordon chose Fort Stedman, 150 yards from the Confederate lines, as the focus of an attack. In the pre-dawn darkness of 25 March 1865, the assault initially made good progress. By daybreak, however, the Confederates were in danger of being cut off. Lee ordered his forces to retreat.

★★★ "Starvation and disease wracked the army"

Grant realised the best hope for Lee to survive was to meet with Johnston's forces in North Carolina. He took steps to prevent this from happening. General Phil Sheridan rejoined his command and would soon play a key role in the final victory. Grant ordered continuing movement to the west, around Lee's flank, and sent Sheridan towards the vital road junction at Five Forks, Lee's best route to North Carolina. Soon enough, Lee realised his right and rear were being threatened. He sent a division under General George Pickett to slow the Union advance. On 1 April, the Battle of Five Forks ended in disaster for the Confederates. Sheridan's cavalry had been joined Union infantry, and the spirited attack flanked Pickett's position. The fight over quickly. Union troops controlled the precious crossroads, and 5,000 prisoners were taken along with 11 Confederate battle flags.

Lieutenant Colonel Horace Porter, a Union staff officer, wrote later that the victory was "the beginning of the end, the reaching of the

'last ditch.' It pointed to peace and home." Grant ordered an assault. With the loss of Five Forks, Lee's positions at Petersburg and Richmond were unhinged. On Sunday morning, 2 April, the old general notified President Jefferson Davis that the army was abandoning its defence and the government should flee Richmond.

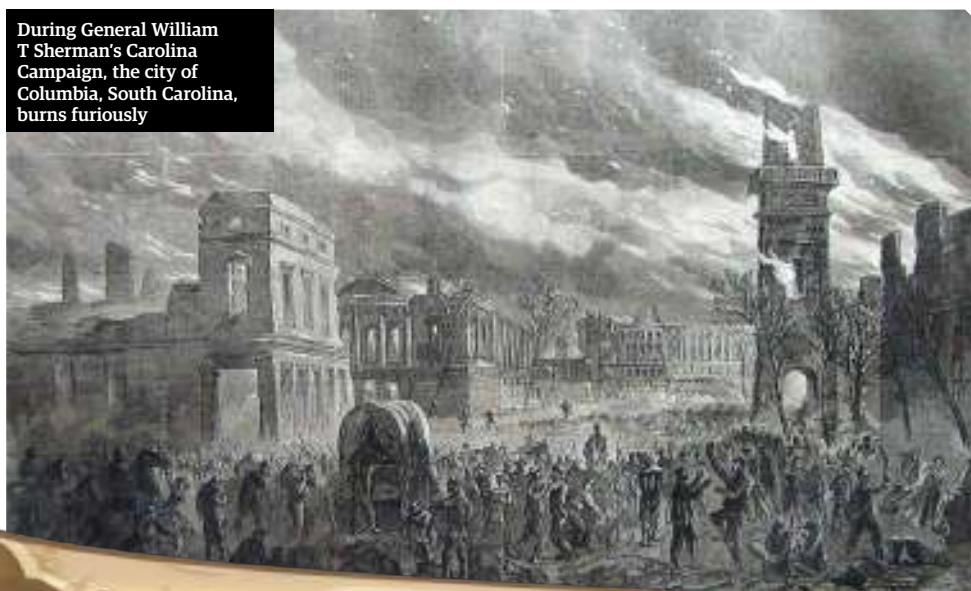
That same morning, the Union VI Corps broke through General AP Hill's Confederate line. Lee ordered General James Longstreet to patch together a new line at Fort Gregg and Battery Whitworth to protect bridges across the Appomattox River. He had to hold Petersburg through the night to allow the remainder of the Army of Northern Virginia to escape. Gordon attacked the Union defenders of Fort Mahone, but as Longstreet's men sacrificed themselves he received word that Hill's line had collapsed.

Miraculously, Lee managed to move his army west toward Amelia Court House. President Davis and the Confederate government pulled out of Richmond aboard rail cars late on 2 April. Mayhem gripped the city, and fires erupted. The last Confederate cavalryman to cross Mayo's Bridge tipped his hat and ordered the span ablaze shouting, "All over, goodbye; blow her to hell!" Skirmishes occurred the next day, with Lee only hours ahead of his pursuers. He intended to remain at Amelia Court House long enough to feed his starving soldiers. With forage wagons returning mostly empty, Lee marched into the



This Confederate soldier was killed in the fighting at Fort Mahone as the Siege of Petersburg ended

During General William T Sherman's Carolina Campaign, the city of Columbia, South Carolina, burns furiously



resort town of Amelia Springs. The Confederates skirted Union troops at Jetersville, and Lee received word that food was waiting at Farmville. His ragged command stumbled on through the dark and pelting rain.

Longstreet's rear guard held the High Bridge across the Appomattox River for a time. However, at Sailor's Creek on 6 April, Lee watched in disbelief as nine Confederate generals were captured and 9,000 soldiers, a quarter of his army, were taken prisoner.

Still, the road to Farmville was temporarily open. The Confederates failed to destroy the High Bridge or a nearby wagon bridge, and the Union pursuit continued. Sheridan's cavalry rode ahead, attempting to block Lee's columns. Lee had changed his plan, marching for Lynchburg, where he might turn south into North Carolina. The road led through the village of Appomattox Court House.

Union troops crossed the High Bridge on the morning of 7 April, and fighting erupted around Cumberland Church, ending at dusk. That night, Lee's army continued towards Appomattox Court House. By 8 April, communications between Grant and Lee regarding a possible surrender had begun. Throughout the day, Lee's army marched towards Appomattox Court House, but Union cavalry under General George A Custer captured rail cars full of provisions and cut the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, slamming the door on Lee. Camped at Rocky Run to the north, Lee held a war council. A daylight attack would dislodge the enemy if they faced cavalry alone. The presence of Union infantry meant the end.

General John B Gordon advanced his II Corps the next morning, and the Battle of Appomattox Court House led directly to the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on the afternoon of 9 April 1865. This surrender marked the effective end of the civil war.

A VISIT TO RICHMOND

President Abraham Lincoln visited Richmond just hours after the Confederate capital fell to Union forces

Lincoln anxiously waited for word of the Union armies' progress in April 1865, spending much of the month away from Washington, DC, at the vast supply base of City Point, Virginia.

On 3 April, Lincoln and his 12-year-old son Tad left City Point to meet General Grant in Petersburg. Along the way they stopped at Fort Mahone, which had been the scene of intense fighting just a few hours earlier.

The dead had yet to be buried, and bodies were strewn across the ground. By afternoon, the president was back at City Point after speaking with Grant. He messaged Secretary of War Edwin M Stanton: "[...] It is certain now that Richmond is in our hands, and I think I will go there to-morrow. I will take care of myself." On the morning of 4 April,

Lincoln and his small group, including Tad, boarded a steamer for the short trip up the James River to the former Confederate capital.

When he came ashore there was little in the way of armed guard for protection, and an astounded crowd of former slaves assembled. "My poor friends, you are free - free as air," he told them. A few Union cavalrymen appeared, escorting Lincoln, who walked about three kilometres (two miles) to the nearest army headquarters, the former Confederate White House.

The president entered, sat in a chair with his legs crossed, gazed dreamily, remarked that it must have belonged to Jefferson Davis, and asked for a glass of water. He toured the rest of the house and never expressed any joy or celebration.



Former slaves shout with joy as President Abraham Lincoln strides through the city of Richmond on 4 April 1865



The End Comes at Appomattox

Doggedly pursued by three Union armies, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia fought its last battle and lowered its flags at Appomattox Court House

Words by **Mike Haskew**



Generals Robert E Lee and Ulysses S Grant discuss surrender terms at the McLean House on 9 April 1865



he tone was desperate and the meaning was clear.

"Tell General Lee that my command has been fought to a frazzle and unless Longstreet can unite in the movement, or prevent these forces from coming upon my rear, I cannot long go forward."

This message was sent by General John B Gordon, commander of II Corps. Gordon had fought with Union troops that were blocking Confederates' route towards the rail line and rations at Lynchburg. His message marked the end of the proud rebel army that had waged war for four agonising years.

On the afternoon of 8 April 1865, General George Armstrong Custer's cavalry division had arrived at Appomattox Station on the South Side Railroad, about three kilometres (two miles) from the village of Appomattox Court House. Custer captured four boxcars of food and other supplies meant for Lee's army. The object of the Confederate general's march towards

Appomattox was gone. He had hoped to feed his famished troops and then turn again to the south to link up with Confederate forces in North Carolina under General Joseph E Johnston.

That evening, Lee called his subordinate commanders together. There were no chairs or tents available, because had all had been seized by the Union cavalry. In fact, three Union armies - Lee's old nemesis, the Army of the Potomac, and two smaller forces, the Army of the James and the Army of the Shenandoah - were chasing the Confederate army, and were not far behind. There remained one last hope. If only Union cavalry blocked the road to Lynchburg, Gordon's corps and the rebel cavalry, might push the enemy aside and open the route for the rest of the army. The presence of Union infantry, however, would mean the end.

As the Confederate generals discussed the situation, a conversation about surrender terms had already begun. Generals Lee and Grant had exchanged messages by courier. Lee had hoped to buy time, while Grant, suffering from a severe

headache, dashed off a reply to the Confederate commander's latest message on the morning of 9 April. He then mounted his horse and galloped off towards Sheridan.

Before sunrise, Grant's trusted cavalry commander had ordered the dismounted brigade of General Charles H Smith to occupy a low ridge about a mile west of Appomattox Court House. From this high ground, the veteran cavalrymen of New York, Ohio and Maine covered the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road and the Bent Creek Road running north. The troopers dug shallow trenches to protect their position, and waited. Lieutenant James Lord brought up a pair of cannon to the ridge, and soon these guns were firing at the distant Confederate positions, just visible through a thick layer of fog. Later, more Union cavalry, four full divisions, had arrived, and Sheridan was confident of victory.

Gordon patched together an infantry battle line with what was left of three divisions, under Generals Clement Evans, James Walker, and Bryan Grimes. The weakened division of



★★★

"With Lee's surrender, it ended. The Army of Northern Virginia would soon cease to exist"



The American Civil War

General William H Wallace remained slightly to the rear as an immediate reserve, and cavalry led by the battle-hardened Thomas Munford, Thomas Rosser and WHF 'Rooney' Lee, the old general's second son, moved to the right flank. Artillery under Colonel Thomas Carter also rolled into position.

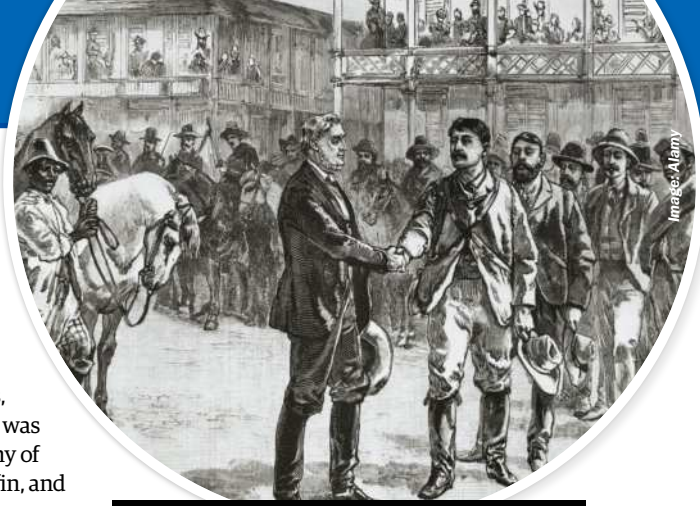
As dawn streaked across the eastern sky, Gordon and cavalry commander Fitzhugh Lee could see the blue-uniformed enemy along the ridge, but the distance made it unclear whether the soldiers were cavalry or infantry. If they were cavalry, Fitzhugh Lee would lead the advance; if infantry, the task would fall to Gordon. While the two men engaged in a heated exchange, Grimes rode forward and boldly stated that the job belonged to someone. "I will undertake it," he declared. Gordon offered, "Well, drive them off!" When Grimes responded that his division alone was not sufficient, Gordon retorted, "You can take the other two divisions of the corps!"

At 5am, the Confederates began forming for battle. Three hours later, the rebels raised their familiar "Yip! Yip!" yell and stepped forwards. North Carolina cavalrymen seized Lord's two Union guns, while the infantry pivoted to the left like a gate on a hinge, flanking Smith's forward positions. Crossing the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, the rebels surged south and west towards a much stronger second Union line commanded by General George Crook. Heavy

fighting, some hand-to-hand, erupted, and opposing cavalry forces clashed with sabres and pistols. Munford and Rosser spurred their horsemen further west to widen the escape corridor.

Sheridan heard the gunfire and rode forwards. He realised that infantry of the XXIV Corps of the Army of the James, commanded by General Edward OC Ord, was nearby along with the V Corps of the Army of the Potomac, under General Charles Griffin, and two brigades of United States Colored Troops of the XXV Corps. He issued a series of orders for the cavalry to make way. As the Union horsemen executed their fighting withdrawal, the Confederates rushed into the gap on the precious road, some of them cheering. However, the moment of triumph was short-lived. As they reached the crest of another low ridge, they saw Union infantry deploying thick lines.

★★★
**"The rebels surged
 south and west
 towards a second
 stronger Union line"**



Prior to his capture in Georgia, Confederate President Jefferson Davis bids farewell to his escort troops

Gordon quickly realised that his flank and rear were vulnerable as Griffin moved northward towards the Court House building. Moments later, Colonel Charles Venable - an officer sent forward by General Lee to find out what was happening - received Gordon's report. The Confederate cavalry could not stand up to massed infantry, so began to disengage. The balance of the Confederate army, under General James Longstreet, could not help Gordon as a new threat from the Union II and VI Corps, under Generals Andrew Humphreys and Horatio Wright, emerged to the northeast at New Hope Church. Venable returned to General Lee's side and delivered the news from Gordon. The old warrior knew that the fight was over and remarked, "Then there is nothing left me to do but to go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

The difficulties of communications across the battlefield delayed the orders to both armies to cease-fire. It also delayed the fateful meeting of Grant and Lee. They were to meet in the parlour of a home belonging to merchant Wilmer McLean at Appomattox Court House, on 9 April. Lee, expecting to meet his enemy sometime that day, had dressed in his finest uniform. General Longstreet found him that morning, Palm Sunday, a striking figure of military deportment. "He was dressed in a suit of new uniform, sword and sash, a handsomely embroidered belt, boots and a pair of gold spurs," Longstreet later recalled. "At first approach, his compact figure appeared as a man in the flush vigour of 40 summers,

FRONT YARD AND PARLOUR

Wilmer McLean was present with the opening guns of the Civil War and its conclusion four years later

On the morning of 9 April 1865, Wilmer McLean was 51 years old. A veteran of the Virginia Militia, he was also a successful refugee of the war. McLean had made money trading in sugar and supplying this precious commodity to the Confederate military. A native of Alexandria, Virginia, he had married in 1853 and settled in the town of Manassas, Virginia, a few miles outside Washington DC.

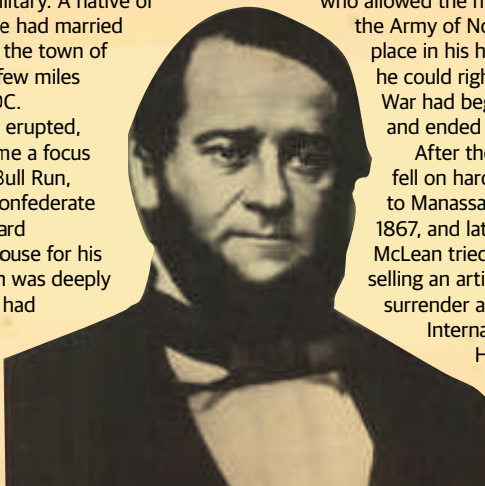
When the Civil War erupted, McLean's home became a focus of the First Battle of Bull Run, fought 21 July 1861. Confederate General PGT Beauregard commandeered the house for his headquarters. McLean was deeply disturbed by what he had seen. By the spring of 1863, he had moved his family 190 kilometres (120 miles) south, residing in a handsome two-

storey home on the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road in the quiet town of Appomattox Court House. Here, he hoped the war would not disrupt their lives again.

However, the conflict followed McLean, who allowed the historic surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia to take place in his home. From that day, he could rightly claim that the Civil War had begun in his front yard and ended in his parlour.

After the war the family fell on hard times, returning to Manassas in the autumn of 1867, and later to Alexandria. McLean tried to make a living, selling an artist's rendering of the surrender and working for the Internal Revenue Service.

He defaulted on his bank loan, losing the Appomattox house in 1869, and died in Alexandria, aged 68, on 5 June 1882.



Union General Phil Sheridan led the cavalry that relentlessly pursued and blocked the escape of the Confederate army at Appomattox Court House

but as I drew near, the handsome apparel and brave bearing failed to conceal his profound depression." Another officer asked why Lee had dressed so formally, and the general replied, "I have probably to be General Grant's prisoner and thought I must make my best appearance."

As the day wore on, General Lee waited and slept for about an hour in the shade of an apple tree. He was awakened as two Union officers - Colonel Orville Babcock and Captain William Dunn - brought word of Grant's agreement to meet at a place of Lee's choosing. Colonel Charles Marshall, Lee's secretary and assistant, rode into the town to find an appropriate location for the talks. He came across McLean, who first took the officer to a house with no furniture. Marshall was unimpressed, and McLean then offered his own home. Marshall sent his aide, Private Joshua Johns, to bring Lee forward, and Babcock dispatched Dunn to summon General Grant. Within minutes, Lee, Babcock and Marshall were seated in McLean's parlour, engaging in polite conversation while waiting for Grant to arrive.

Half an hour later, Grant walked through the front door. Lee rose to his feet, and the two shook hands while a group of Union officers, including Sheridan and Ord, waited outside. Grant was scruffy and no doubt slightly embarrassed of his appearance. Lee was dressed in his smart-looking uniform, while Grant wore a dusty coat that he had travelled in for some time. "When I left the camp that morning I had not expected so soon the result that was then taking place, and consequently was in rough garb," Grant later wrote in his memoirs. "I was without a sword, as I usually was when on horseback on the field, and wore a soldier's blouse for a coat, with the shoulder straps of my rank to indicate to the army who I was."

The conversation began in a polite tone, with Grant commenting that the two had briefly met while serving during the Mexican War nearly 20 years earlier. With courteous comments exchanged, Lee turned the discussion back to the business at hand. "I suppose, General Grant, that the object of our present meeting is fully understood. I have come to meet with you in accordance with my letter to you this morning, to treat about the surrender of my army, and I think the best way would be for you to put your terms in writing." Grant responded, "Yes, I believe it will."

The Union commander asked to have other officers enter the room, and they did, filing in quietly as General Horace Porter remembered "very much as people enter a sick-chamber when they expect to find the patient dangerously ill". Grant wrote down the framework of surrender in his order book and handed the book to Porter, who then passed it to Lee. The 58-year-old

A POST-SURRENDER FRENZY

Mementos of the surrender at Appomattox Court House were in high demand immediately after the proceedings

Shortly after the news of the surrender of General Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to the Union forces under General Grant at Appomattox Court House had spread, souvenir hunters hacked the apple tree where Lee had napped, on the afternoon of 9 April 1865, into pieces. For good measure, several other nearby trees were dismembered as well.

When the meeting concluded at the McLean House, the homeowner watched helplessly as his belongings were dispersed in the possession of Union officers. General EOC Ord insisted on paying Wilmer McLean \$40 for the table Lee had used, while General Phil Sheridan offered \$20 for a table that had been beside Grant. When McLean refused to sell to Sheridan, the general reportedly took the table anyway and threw a \$20 gold piece to the floor of the house. Sheridan later gave the table to General George Armstrong Custer as a gift to his wife, while Sheridan's brother procured a stoneware inkstand and another officer paid \$10 for the pair of candlesticks Lee had moved in order to read Grant's terms of surrender. The chairs the generals sat in passed through several owners and finally made their way to the National

Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

One mute witness to the surrender, a doll belonging to one of McLean's daughters, gained lasting fame. The doll was tossed around the house by several Union officers and finally taken by a young captain. It remained in the officer's family many years before being finally returned to Appomattox Court House.



The chairs used by Generals Grant (left) and Lee in Appomattox are now on display in Washington, DC's National Museum of American History

In May 1865, a grand review of the victorious Union armies took place in Washington DC



General Porter kept the pencil used by Lee to pencil the surrender terms as a prized memento of the momentous meeting

Confederate general wiped his glasses, moved a pair of candlesticks and a few books out of the way, and noted that the word "exchanged" had been omitted from the text. He searched for a pencil and then borrowed one from Porter, inserting the word in the appropriate space.

Lee took special note that Grant was generous in stating that only public property was to be given up. Officers could keep their sidearms and baggage. He responded, "That will have a very happy effect." A moment later, he raised the prospect of Confederate soldiers keeping their

horses for ploughing fields for a crop when they returned to civilian life. Grant at first replied that this was not possible, even after Lee noted that the horses were personal property and did not belong to the government. Grant eventually agreed, his compassion and desire for peace already shining through.

As the meeting came to an end, the two commanders signed the documents of the surrender agreement. Lee pointed out that the Confederates were holding about 1,000 prisoners and that they had little or nothing to eat. Grant asked Sheridan if he could gather together some rations and then assured Lee that 25,000 would



The American Civil War

be coming forward. The food was intended both for the prisoners, who would soon be released, and the starving Confederate soldiers.

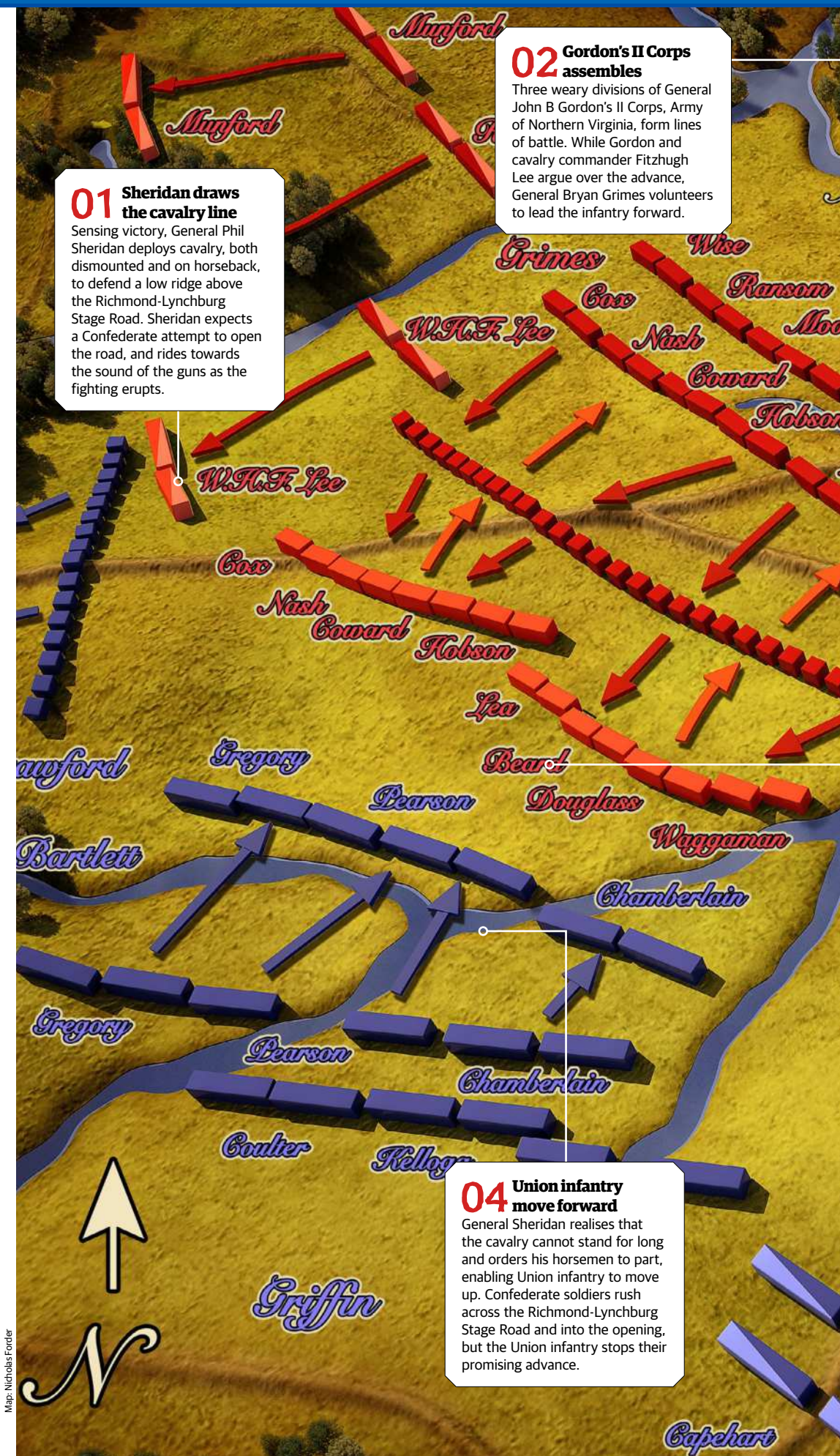
When the formal meeting was concluded, Grant introduced Lee to the Union officers gathered. Lee shook hands with those nearby and bowed towards those at a distance. At about 3pm, Lee walked to the porch and pounded his right fist into his left hand as he looked down the valley towards his defeated army. As Lee mounted his horse, Grant reached the porch, raising his hat in salute. Lee responded similarly from horseback, and the gathered officers followed suit. With that, it ended. The Army of Northern Virginia would soon cease to exist, passing into history. The details of paroles, exchanges and the handing out of rations were left to other officers.

In his memoirs, Grant recalled the emotion of the moment. "I felt like anything but rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly, and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe, one of the worst for which a people ever fought, and one for which there was the least excuse."

As news of the surrender spread across the country, Union artillery began firing in celebration. Grant was annoyed and quickly ordered it to cease. "The war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again; and the best sign of rejoicing after the victory will be to abstain from all demonstrations in the field." He dashed off a cable with news of the victory to Secretary of War Edwin M Stanton in Washington, DC. It was a masterpiece of calm words in an emotional moment: "General Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia this afternoon on terms proposed by myself. The accompanying additional correspondence will show the conditions fully."

While the drama played out at Appomattox, Confederate President Jefferson Davis had left Danville, where he had fled by rail, evacuating Richmond late on the night of 2 April, as the city burned and federal troops approached. He reached Charlotte, North Carolina, on 26 April. This was the same day that General Johnston surrendered his Confederate army to General William T Sherman after his campaign northwards from Savannah, Georgia, where his 'March to the Sea' had ended. Davis was arrested near Irwinville, Georgia, on 10 May. He was imprisoned at Fort Monroe in Virginia and charged treason, but never tried. He was released on a bond for \$100,000, and lived out his days in Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The Civil War was over. Skirmishing did continue for weeks, and the final engagement of the conflict, generally accepted by historians, occurred at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville, Texas, 12-13 May 1865. Ahead lay years of 'reconstruction' and reconciliation. As President Lincoln had declared in his second inaugural address just weeks earlier, it was time to "bind up the nation's wounds".



01 Sheridan draws the cavalry line

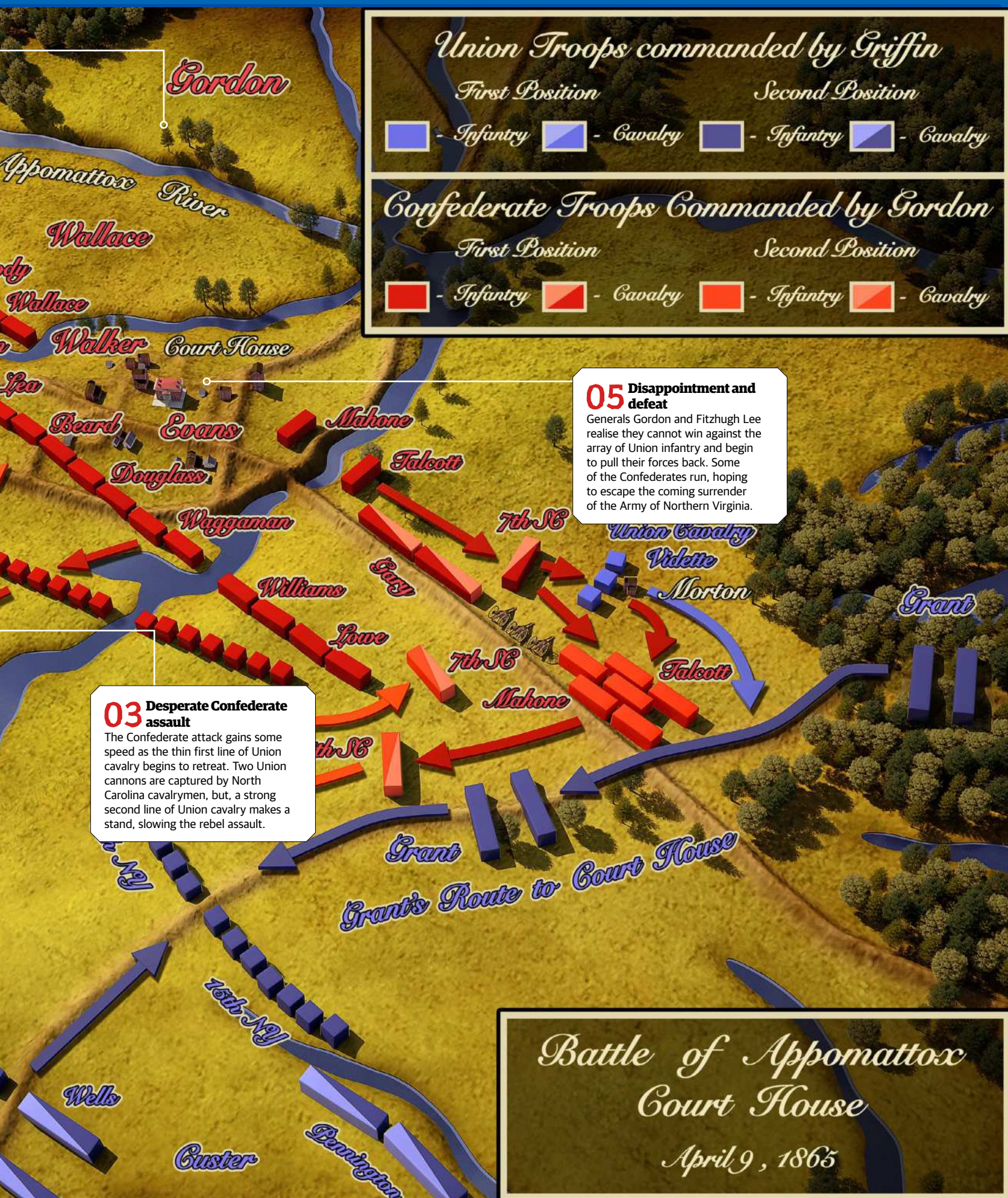
Sensing victory, General Phil Sheridan deploys cavalry, both dismounted and on horseback, to defend a low ridge above the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. Sheridan expects a Confederate attempt to open the road, and rides towards the sound of the guns as the fighting erupts.

02 Gordon's II Corps assembles

Three weary divisions of General John B Gordon's II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, form lines of battle. While Gordon and cavalry commander Fitzhugh Lee argue over the advance, General Bryan Grimes volunteers to lead the infantry forward.

04 Union infantry move forward

General Sheridan realises that the cavalry cannot stand for long and orders his horsemen to part, enabling Union infantry to move up. Confederate soldiers rush across the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road and into the opening, but the Union infantry stops their promising advance.





Defeat After Victory

Winning a war was one thing, winning the peace another. Securing equality for African-Americans in the South proved a step too far

Words by **Edoardo Albert**

Freedmen voting in elections in New Orleans in 1867



T

he Union had won the war. But could it win the peace? That was the great question that faced the winning side of the American Civil War. Whatever hopes

President Lincoln had in mind, had died with him when he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on 14 April, 1865. Lincoln's vice-president, Andrew Johnson, became president in his place.

President Lincoln had wanted a pardon given to the Confederate states as a way of re-establishing the Union. However, President Johnson was a man committed to the Constitution and equally committed to his racist views. He set about ensuring that the Southern states would have the freedom to govern themselves. As a result, the previously Confederate states began passing a series of laws

designed to put the newly freed black slaves back on the plantations and to keep them there.

Andrew Johnson is frequently cited as one of the nation's worst presidents, but like Lincoln his personal story reflected the American Dream. Both had grown up in extreme poverty. Johnson's parents could not read and he never attended school. Johnson was self-educated and worked as a tailor before entering politics. There



Many teachers from the North went to the South to educate and train the newly freed slaves

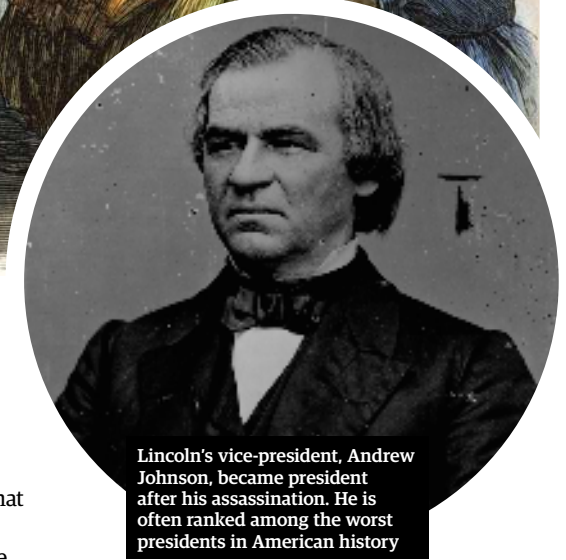
was much to admire about his life, but little to applaud in his time in the White House.

In the immediate aftermath of the war, Johnson used his presidential powers to offer pardons to all the white citizens of the Confederate states. An exception was made for the leaders of the Confederacy and the major plantation holders, who had to petition personally for pardons. Johnson also proposed returning all land and property to dispossessed Southerners, with the exception of their human property: slaves were not to be restored.

The individual states also had to ratify the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed slavery, while citizens of the South had to swear loyalty to the Union, and the states had to renounce secession from the Union and cancel

the debts run up during the Civil War. These were generous terms, and it is likely that they were supported by Lincoln. When asked by a Union general how to treat the defeated enemy, Lincoln had replied, "Let 'em up easy."

It is unlikely that Lincoln would have kept quiet, as Johnson did, when it became clear that Southern states were using the freedom they had been given to ensure the freed slaves were kept in a condition as close to slavery as possible. It was Johnson's belief that "white men alone must manage the South". The new Southern legislatures set about enacting laws that restored slavery in all but name: freedmen could only work as field labourers. Black men without work could be sold to planters to work as labourers, and black children could be taken from their families.



Lincoln's vice-president, Andrew Johnson, became president after his assassination. He is often ranked among the worst presidents in American history

The Republican-dominated Congress reconvened in December 1865. The president had already declared that Reconstruction was over, to the horror of the Republicans who had fought for the emancipation of the slaves. What's more, many former Confederate officials had been elected to serve in Congress, including even Alexander Stephens, the vice-president of the Confederacy. However, when these Confederates presented themselves to Congress, the Clerk of the House refused to include them among the elected members.

In opposition of the Democrat president's actions, the Republican Congress passed the Civil Rights Bill, which granted citizenship to all men "without distinction of race or color, or previous

★★★
"There was much to admire about Johnson's life, but little to applaud in his time in the White House"



condition of slavery or involuntary servitude". However, presented with the Bill, President Johnson rejected it. Despite this, Congress voted to overturn the president's decision, and the Civil Rights Act was passed into law on 9 April 1866.

In the South, meanwhile, white supremacist organisation the Ku Klux Klan had been founded in Tennessee. Rising racial tensions led to three days of rioting in Memphis, Tennessee, which saw 48 people, most of whom were black, killed.

An increasingly radical Congress proposed the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment defined a United States citizen as simply someone born in or naturalised to the United States, and sent it to the states to be passed, with the demand that the Southern states agree to the amendment as the price of being readmitted to the Union. In the Congressional elections of the autumn of 1866, voters returned a House of Congress full of radical Republicans

determined to restart Reconstruction. Congress was so powerful, that President Johnson could no longer stop them. Congress passed a series of Reconstruction Acts, dividing the South into five military districts under army control and forcing them to accept votes for black people. This began what came to be called Radical or Congressional Reconstruction, which lasted until 1877.

During most of this period, the Republican Party controlled most of the Southern states. To

pass the Reconstruction Acts, many Northerners headed to the South - soldiers, teachers and businessmen. These people came to be called 'carpetbaggers' after their suitcases made from stitched-together carpet. On the Southern side, the locally born white Republicans were called 'scalawags', and were mainly small farmers.

Finally, local black people overwhelmingly voted Republican in an effort to end the racial segregation of the South and to gain some economic and political power. Black Americans were elected to Congress and the Senate, and many served in the courts and as the everyday elected officials in the South, from sheriffs to justices of the peace. For a society that had based itself upon segregation, this black emancipation came as a tremendous shock. For many white Southerners, it seemed that their black slaves had suddenly become their political masters - and they weren't happy about it.

Through 1867 and 1868, most of the Southern states were readmitted to the Union (Georgia, the last, was readmitted in 1870) and, on 28 July, the 14th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified. President Johnson, who had escaped impeachment by the narrowest of margins (one vote in the Senate, Congress having voted to impeach) was denied a chance at re-election by



While denied political rights, black churches became established in the South, serving as an important focus for community life and hope

THE COLFAX MASSACRE

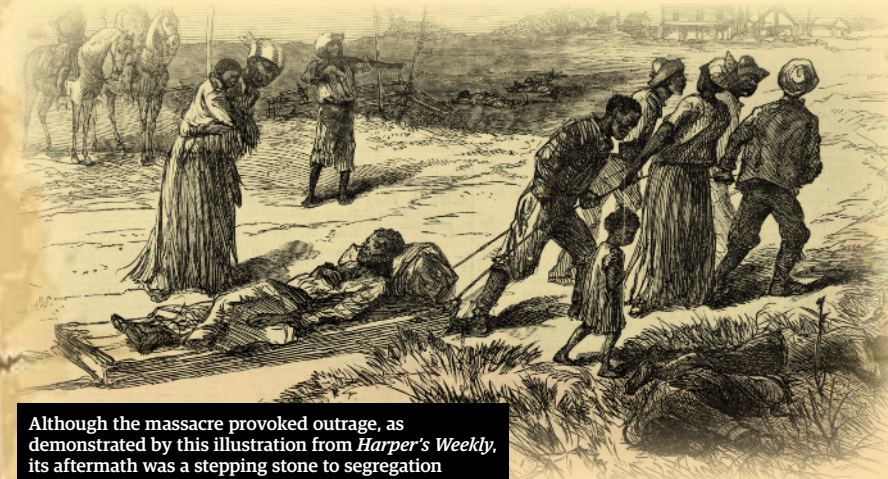
The bloodiest and most significant violence of the Reconstruction era

The 1872 elections in Louisiana were evenly split between Republicans and Democrats. In the aftermath, with rumours swirling of paramilitary groups taking control of local parishes, a black militia force - led by Civil War veteran William Ward - took control of the courthouse of Grant Parish in April 1873. As white supremacist forces gathered, Ward left on 11 April to seek help from the state governor. Two days later, white supremacist forces, armed with a cannon, opened fire on the courthouse. After a brief firefight, the black defenders surrendered.

After giving themselves up, however, a massacre took place, with somewhere between 60 and 150 of the black militia being killed. The murders generated newspaper

headlines across the country and federal forces eventually arrested 97 men for the crime. Fearing that a trial for murder before a state court would see the accused being set free, the authorities instead charged them with breaking the Enforcements Act.

The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, which found in favour of the defendants. The court stated that the Enforcements Act applied only to states, not to individuals. As a result, the criminals of the Colfax Massacre escaped unpunished. For black people in the South, it seemed clear that there was now no fighting against the corrupt and biased local courts. With the passing of the first Jim Crow laws, the re-segregation of the South was firmly in place.



Although the massacre provoked outrage, as demonstrated by this illustration from *Harper's Weekly*, its aftermath was a stepping stone to segregation

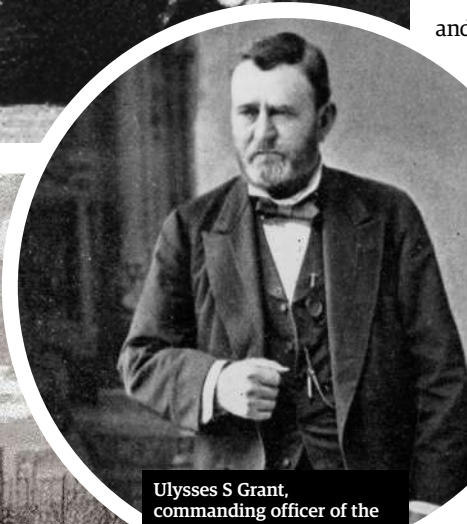
Defeat After Victory



An illustration of the Ku Klux Klan preparing to lynch a man that they regarded as a collaborator



Republican candidates sought to link their election rivals with groups such as the Ku Klux Klan



Ulysses S Grant, commanding officer of the Union forces during the Civil War and 18th president of the United States



The Battle of Liberty Place, 1874, when the White League attacked New Orleans' racially integrated police force

the Democrats, who chose Horatio Seymour as their nominee for the presidential elections. For their part, the Republicans nominated General Ulysses Grant, the military architect of the Union victory in the Civil War. Grant won the election - though the margin was tight. It was the votes of black men that provided the Republicans with the necessary numbers to win.

With a Republican President, Congress and Senate, legislators in Congress passed the 15th

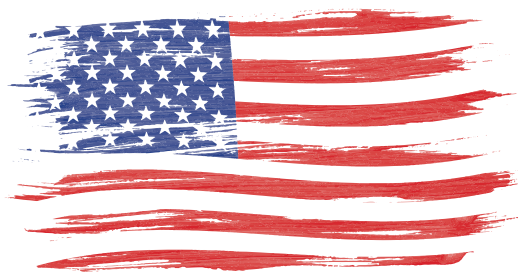
Amendment to the Constitution, which ruled that all men were entitled to vote, regardless of race, colour or previously having been a slave. The amendment was sent to the states for their agreement. This was a response to the increasing levels of violence in the South, where white supremacist organisations were trying to stop black emancipation. The first among these was the Ku Klux Klan, which targeted freed black slaves and Republicans with threats, violence

and murder. However, as reports of the violence reached Washington DC, Congress passed the Enforcement Act. This allowed the central government to protect the rights of black citizens when their local courts failed to do so. The third of the Enforcement Acts was known as the 'Ku Klux Klan Act' and passed in 1871. It targeted the Klan and destroyed it, at least for the time being, as an organisation. However, local Democrats wanted to overturn Republican rule and pass racist laws in the state assemblies. These figures started similar organisations to the Ku Klux Klan that served as the enforcement arm of the Democratic Party, eventually helping it to return to power in the South.

While radical Reconstruction had begun with great ideas and high hopes, it was eventually revealed as corrupt. Political scandals in the North disgraced many officials, while rumours of the corruption of black government officials in the South began to spread. By the time President Grant won re-election in 1872, the political will for and popular patience with Reconstruction was beginning to run out. The war had ended seven years earlier, and the attention of voters and politicians was turning elsewhere.

Despite continuing violence in the South - about 150 black men were killed in the Colfax Massacre of 13 April 1873 - the Democrats won a Congressional majority in 1874. By 1876, among the Southern states, only Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina were under Republican control. With control of the House, and most Southern state courts, the Democrats began passing a series of racist laws that became known collectively as the Jim Crow laws. These ensured continuing racial segregation in the South and remained in place until 1963.

While the Republicans - who had fought so hard for black emancipation - won the war, it was the Democrats, with their dogged defence of white supremacy, who won the peace.



A House Reunited

The war left thousands dead and a nation painfully brought back together, but the consequences would be felt for many decades to come

Words by **David Smith**



he American Civil War formed a dividing line between the nation's past and its future. The fact that the nation was a very different place after the guns

fell silent was quickly obvious. "It does not seem to me as if I were living in the country in which I was born," commented former Harvard professor George Ticknor in 1869.

Some of the consequences of four years of war were obvious. There was a new state, West Virginia. The institution of slavery had been abolished. More than 600,000 men had been killed – out of a population of just 38 million, that was a shockingly high number.

Somehow, despite the divisions that caused and were deepened by the war, the country became more united. Yet, despite the sense that the nation had been brought closer

together through war, there would be festering resentment and, in dealing with the most obvious result of the conflict, there would be fierce and effective resistance.

THE END OF SLAVERY

The abolition of slavery in theory placed African-Americans on an equal footing with their former masters. The evils of slavery were suddenly so obvious it surprised many that it had been tolerated for so long. "Because I love the South," commented Woodrow Wilson in 1880, "I rejoice in the failure of the Confederacy... Slavery was enervating our Southern society."

Resistance to this liberation, however, came quickly. The idea of segregation had sprung up during the Reconstruction period and it gathered momentum afterwards. Black Americans gradually were stripped of their right to vote

in elections, with new legal barriers, including a poll tax and literacy tests, being put in place by authorities. In Louisiana there were 130,344 registered black voters in 1896. Just four years later, that number had fallen to 5,320. Poor, uneducated white citizens were also excluded, but the focus was on the black population.

Civil rights for African-Americans were also steadily eroded. The idea of segregation was approved by the Supreme Court in 1896, when it ruled that it was not against illegal to make black passengers sit in different train carriages, so long as those carriages were of equal standard to those allocated to whites.

The concept of 'separate but equal' came to cover all manner of racist laws and segregation spread to public parks, drinking fountains and even cemeteries. The 'Jim Crow' laws that divided Southern society would continue until the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s swept them away.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

For many decades there was an acceptance that the Civil War had boosted the American economy and sped up the industrialisation of the country. More recently, it has been argued that the war actually slowed down economic growth, but laid the foundations for quick expansion after the war. America quickly overtook Great Britain as the world's leading industrialised nation following the conflict.

The South, however, found itself lagging behind. A large amount of the former Confederacy's industrial capacity had been destroyed during the war, and rebuilding this was slowed by a shortage of finances. By the end of the century the proportion of the nation's factories located in the South was actually lower than it had been before the war, at around ten per cent. The average income in the North in 1890



Racial segregation was widespread across the US well into the 20th century

Images source: Getty Images

★★★
“Despite the sense that
the nation had been
brought closer together
through war, there
would be festering
resentment”



The Gettysburg battlefield monument, part of America's attempt to memorialise its Civil War



Lyndon Johnson meets with prominent members of the Civil Rights Movement, including (left) Martin Luther King Jr

★★★
"Some Southerners looked back to a dreamlike era before the war"

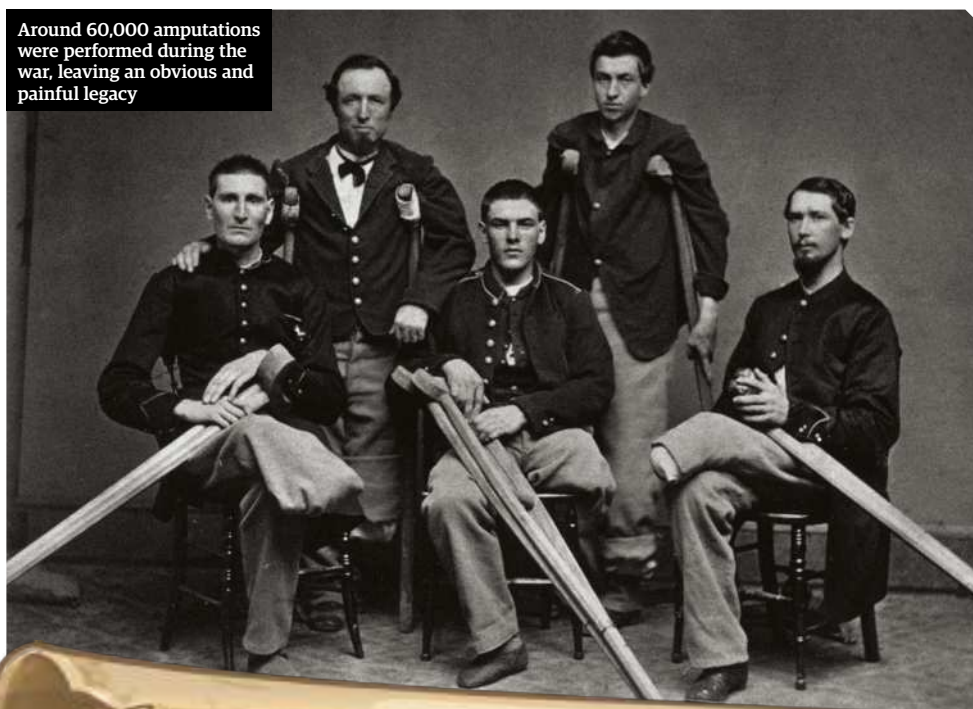
stood at \$1,165 per year. In the South it was less than half that amount.

The South was able to heal through the production of raw materials. The region had many natural resources to fall back on - sulphur in Louisiana, bauxite in Arkansas and oil in Texas. Cotton production also boomed. By 1879 it was back to pre-war levels and had doubled by 1894, doubling again by 1914.

Southern farming had also been badly damaged by the war. A third of the region's horses and mules had been killed and half of its farming machinery destroyed. However, as more land was opened up to development, and once new technology, including improved fertilisers, boosted productivity, a slow recovery was made. The introduction of refrigerated train cars resulted in an explosion of fruit production in Florida and Louisiana. The picture was far from rosy, however. The shortage of money made it almost impossible for people to buy land, so instead a 'sharecropper' system became popular, where tenant farmers were given an area of land to work in return for a share of the crops produced. It was far from slavery, but many people found themselves working the same small farm for the remainder of their lives, tied down by debt and with no hope of improvement.

Some saw industrialisation as the answer to the South's problems, but others looked backwards, to a dreamlike era before the war where Southern civilisation had been strong

Around 60,000 amputations were performed during the war, leaving an obvious and painful legacy



THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Oppression of the black population was far from at an end, following the emancipation of the slaves

The Civil Rights Movement began in America as a result of continuing discrimination against the black population. Almost a century after the war had liberated the slaves, African-Americans experienced bigotry, racism and violence in almost every avenue of their lives, especially in the Southern states.

Through many nonviolent protests, often in the face of extremely violent reactions from the white population, the movement gradually started to make its point. The Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Greensboro sit-ins and the Selma to Montgomery marches forced the nation as a whole to face up to the fact that the freedom

delivered by the American Civil War had been snatched away from the black population.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a landmark moment, but the spectre of racism did not disappear overnight. Rather than disappearing, the difference in wealth between white and black communities is actually growing. Between 1980 and 2016, the wealth of the average black American household declined, while that in white and Latino families increased. Studies confirm there is still discrimination against blacks in the job sector and wealth is concentrated in white hands. More than 150 years after the war, America remains in many ways a divided nation.



Rosa Parks became a symbol of the Civil Rights Movement after refusing to vacate her bus seat for a white passenger



Memorial Day parades, such as this one circa 1930, were attended by a steadily dwindling number of veterans as each year passed

and noble. The idea of the 'Lost Cause' took root, with many believing the South's ideals had been right and that the war might easily have gone differently. Civil War memorials began to spring up around the South - a cause of controversy to this day. Racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan also flickered back into life.

AMERICA STANDS ALONE

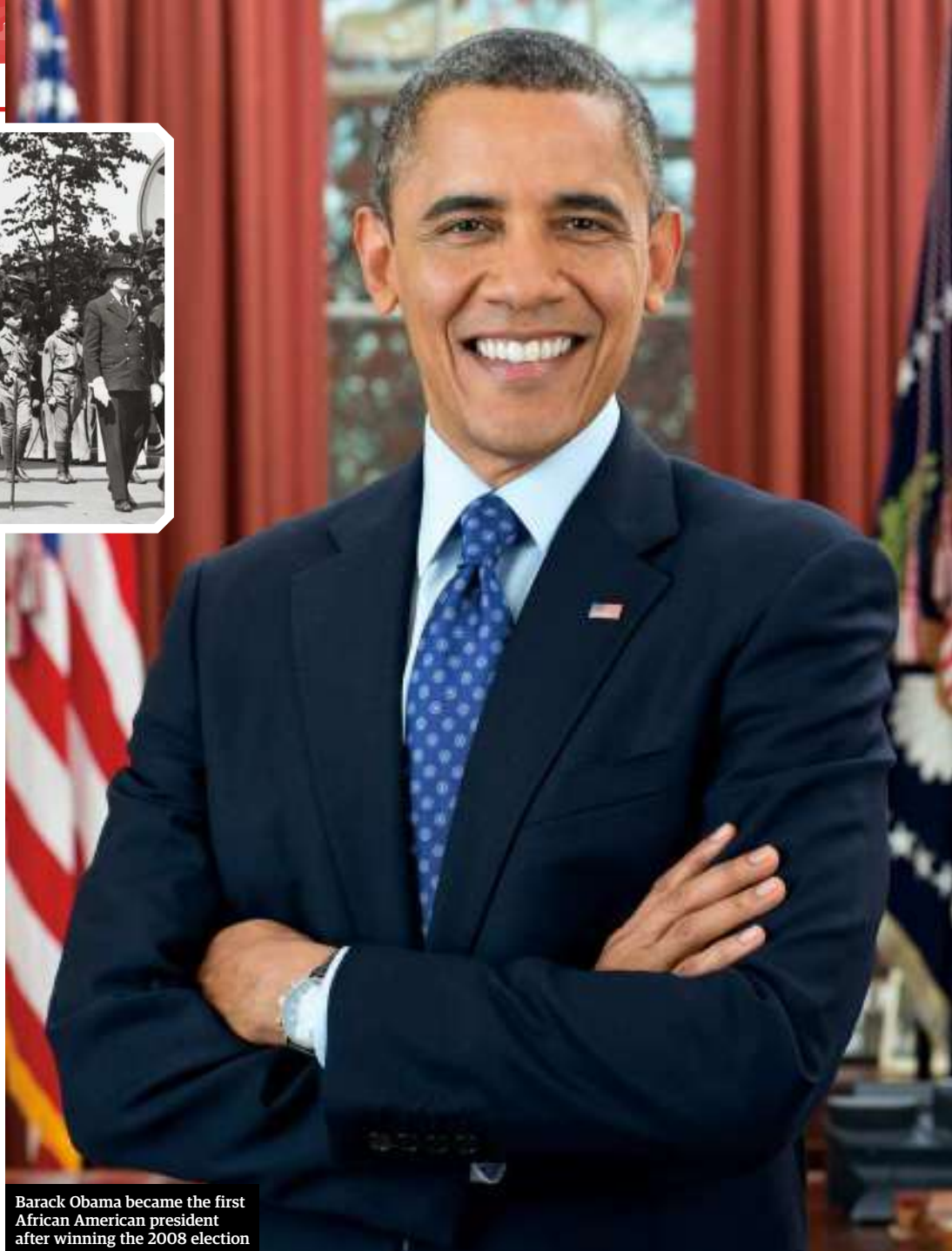
For all the changes brought about by the war, one of the most striking things to consider is something that did not happen. At the end of the war, America was a truly powerful nation. With a huge population, an army of nearly a million veterans and a powerful navy, the nation could have become a global superpower immediately.

Instead, the USA remained isolated from the rest of the world. Partly this was because Americans simply had no need of anyone else. The continent still offered huge chances for expansion. It was not until the end of the 19th century that the country began to look further afield for its future. By this time, the continent had been settled, the western territories turned into states, the Plains Indians defeated, and America felt a need for foreign markets. By this time however, the US Army numbered just 28,000 men.

The familiar pattern of the American military, preparing itself for a war only after it had started, continued into the 20th century. The First and Second World Wars saw the United States require years to build up strength to make any significant contribution. After this there was a huge change, as the nation recognised the need to remain strong in peacetime. With the beginning of the Cold War, the American armed forces would never again drop to a weakened state in peacetime. Instead they became the dominant military power in the world.

THE POLITICAL IMPACT

Politically, the civil war left America as divided as ever. Power was firmly held in the North and it would be almost 100 years before a man born in a former Confederate state would be elected to the office of president (Lyndon B Johnson beating Barry Goldwater in a landslide in 1964).



Barack Obama became the first African American president after winning the 2008 election

African-Americans again and again voted for the Republicans (the party of Abraham Lincoln) until the 1930s, but after this they shifted allegiance to the Democrats, in part due to Franklin D Roosevelt's New Deal. In 2008, Barack Obama, a Democrat, became the first black American to be voted into the nation's top office.

The government had assumed a much greater role in the lives of the population during the war and it was not about to let that go. The state became far more centralised and powerful. Direct taxation and the enforcement of the army draft were just the most obvious signs of the growing strength of the national government. However, states rights would remain a vitally important part of American life.

THE OLD SOLDIERS

As for the men who had actually fought in the war - the veterans of both Union and Confederate

armies - the post-war years had little to offer. With the shrinking of the army there were few positions for veterans to occupy. Black soldiers had proved their worth, however, and continued to serve in all-black units, most famously in the 'Buffalo Soldier' cavalry and infantry regiments.

The war officially ended in 1865, but for many thousands of wounded and maimed soldiers it continued for years afterwards. The personal impact of the war eventually faded as the veterans themselves quietly passed away. In 1914, a former Union general named Joshua Chamberlain died having served four terms as Governor of Maine. On 24 February that year he was finally killed by internal injuries suffered at the Second Battle of Petersburg. Another 42 years later, Albert Henry Woolson, the last officially recognised veteran from either side, passed away. The American Civil War was consigned to history, but its impact is still felt to this day.

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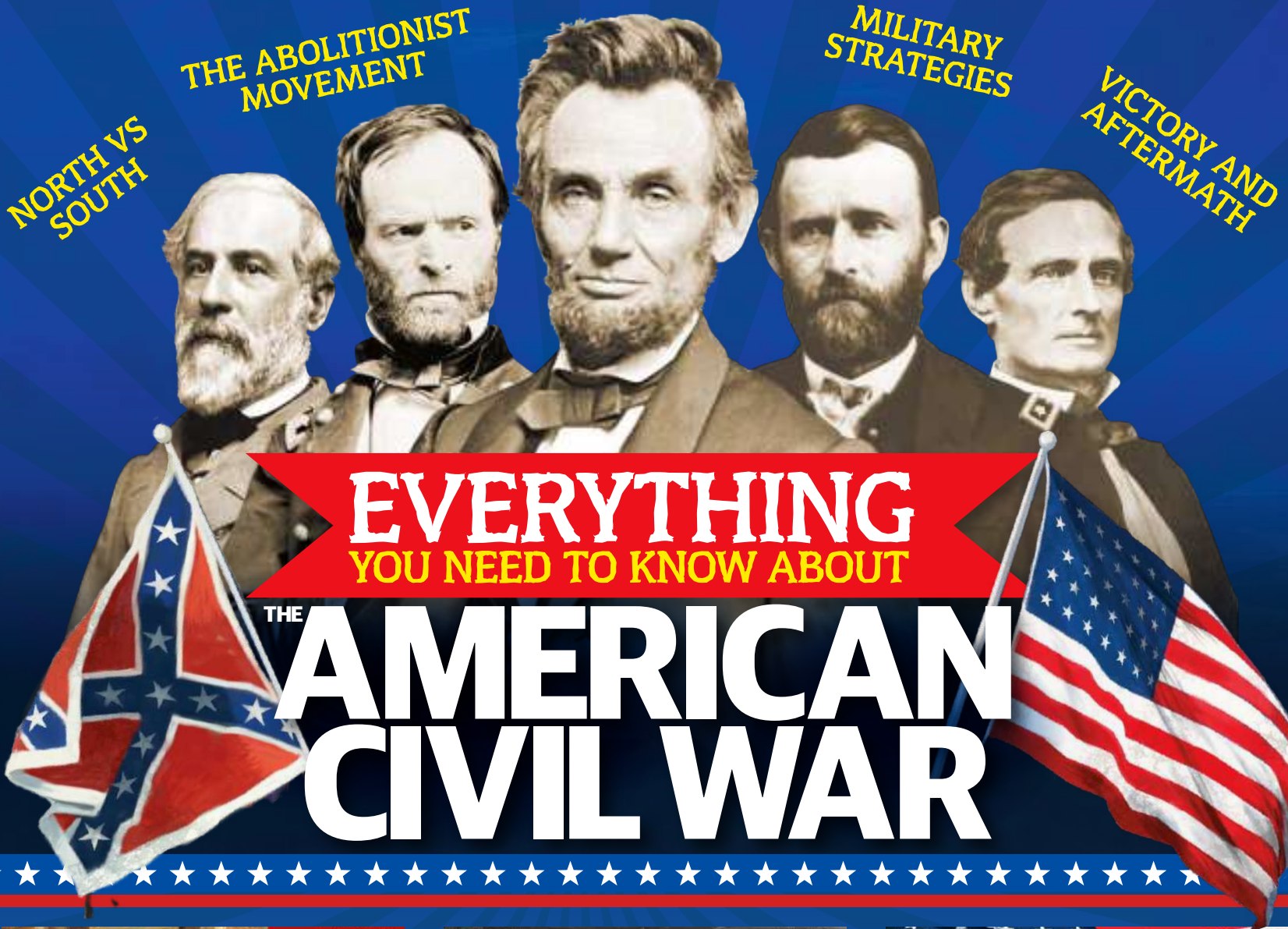
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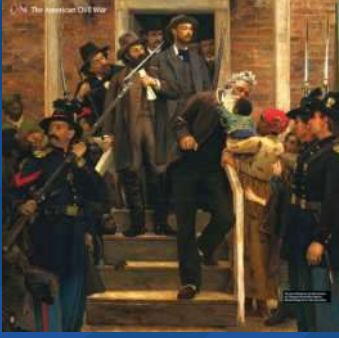
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THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



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